

With the most advanced update feature that continuously improves PC Tools Spyware Doctor, your PC will be protected from online threats. For more information, see page 8!

July 2008 • \$3.50 U.S.

JULY 2008

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An Essential Tool For Your PC

First Glimpse

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ON THE GO

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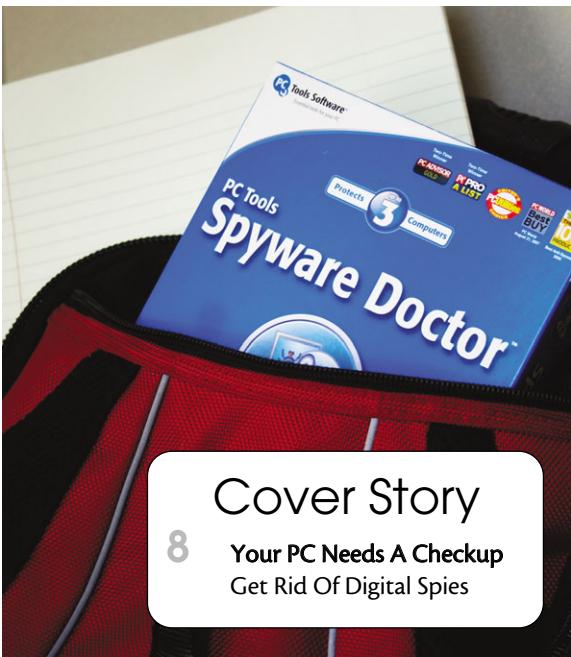
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Lifestyle Close-Up: All About DVRs

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Editor's Note

Isn't it time that you watch television on your own time? As I know from my own personal DVR experience, if you find the right DVR, you can certainly do that and a lot more. These days, DVRs are no longer limited to recording your favorite programs while collecting dust next to a TV. These devices have plenty of other features to offer, such as the ability to stream video, music, or photos on your home network; download media from the Internet; offload recordings to an external hard drive; or record HD content. In this month's feature package, "All About DVRs," which starts on page 44, we take a look at what today's DVRs have to offer and what you should consider before purchasing one.

As always, *First Glimpse* strives to provide you with the latest information on new products hitting store shelves, and our growing "Latest Arrivals" (see page 5) is one way we try to alert you to these items. In addition to this page chock-full of new products, I suggest you take a look at our new "Software Listings" on page 68. This two-page article gives an overview of the most noteworthy and popular software with snippets of helpful buying information. Now you'll know exactly what you need for your PC.



Ashley Kumpula

Ashley Kumpula
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The Latest Arrivals

Look For These New Products

Keep an eye out for these products hitting Best Buy shelves for the first time. Some of the items listed below are showcased in this month's one-page product profiles, so be sure to take a look at the listed page numbers for more information.

Home Theater

- Klipsch CS-700 DVD Entertainment System
- LG 7" Portable DVD Player with JPEG/WMA/MP3 Playback
- LG 8" 16:9 Widescreen Portable DVD Player with JPEG/WMA/MP3 Playback
- LG 26LG40 26" Class LCD HDTV
- LG 32LG40 32" Class LCD HDTV
- LG 32LG70 32" Class LCD HDTV
- LG 42LG70 42" Class LCD HDTV
- LG 47LG70 47" Class LCD HDTV
- LG 52LG70 52" Class LCD HDTV
- LG 1000W 5.1-Ch. Home Theater System with Upconvert DVD/CD Player (LHT854)
- LG 1000W 5.1-Ch. Home Theater System with Upconvert DVD/CD Player (LHT874)
- LG Multiformat DVD-R/-RW/+R/+RW/RAM Recorder/4-Head Hi-Fi VCR Combo
- LG Progressive-Scan DVD Player with HD Upconversion

Mitsubishi 835 Series 65" 1080p DLP HDTV (WD-65835) ■ See page 19

Mitsubishi 735 Series 60" 1080p DLP HDTV (WD-60735)
Mitsubishi 835 Series 65" 1080p DLP HDTV (WD-65835)

Mitsubishi 735 Series 73" 1080p DLP HDTV (WD-73735) ■ See page 20

Digital Imaging

Canon SELPHY CP-760 Photo Printer ■ See page 39

JVC GZ-MS100 Flash Memory Camcorder

Kodak EasyShare M1020 Digital Frame

Kodak EasyShare V1273

Kodak ESP-5 Printer

Nikon Coolpix P80

Olympus Evolt E-420 DSLR

Sony Cyber-shot DSC-W170

Computers

Acer AX1200-U1520A Desktop

Belkin Mini-Surge Protector with USB Charger

Belkin N Express ExpressCard Adapter

Belkin Powerline Networking Adapter

Belkin Powerline AV Networking Adapter

eMachines T5274 Desktop

Gateway FX4710-UB003A Desktop

Gateway GT5694 Desktop

HP Pavilion dv5-1015 Laptop

HP Pavilion a6500f Desktop

HP Pavilion dv7-1025nr Laptop

HP Pavilion S3500f Desktop

HP Pavilion m9350f Desktop

IOGEAR Bluetooth USB 2.0 Micro Adapter

Maxtor OneTouch™ 4 (640GB)

Maxtor OneTouch™ 4 (1TB)

Maxtor OneTouch™ 4 Plus (1TB)

Maxtor Basics™ Cobalt (320GB)

Maxtor Basics™ Graphite (320GB)

Maxtor Basics™ Topaz (250GB)

Sony VAIO FW 140 Laptop

Sony VAIO FW 160 Laptop

Toshiba Satellite A305-21.1 Special Edition

Toshiba Satellite G55-30 Laptop

Seagate FreeAgent™ (1TB)

Seagate SATA 3.5" Internal Hard Drive Kit

Wireless

Apple Nike AMP Control Watch

Audiovox ACA450 Back-Up Camera System W/ Color Monitor

Collective Case Betseyville Black KMH Flip Case for classic/touch

Collective Case Steve Madden Pyramid classic/touch

Collective Case Steve Madden Silver Snake nano/touch

Collective Case Steve Madden Red Weave classic/touch

Checkolite iHL31 Black iHome iPod Lamp

Checkolite iHL22-SB iHome iPod Lamp

DLO/Netalog AJ for Nike Sports kit

DLO/Netalog JJ for Sony-NWZ-816

Grace Digital Audio Grace Wireless Internet Radio ■ See page 77

Griffin Tech PowerDock 2

Griffin Tech Apple Sync-charging Cable

Griffin Tech Zune Sync-charging Cable

Griffin Tech SanDisk Sync-charging Cable

Klipsch Custom - 1 Earphones

Nyko BluWave Remote For PS3

Nyko Wii Perfect Shot

Products Coming Soon

Home Theater

Mitsubishi 835 Series 73" 1080p DLP HDTV (WD-73835)

Computers

Dell XPS 630 Desktop

Wireless

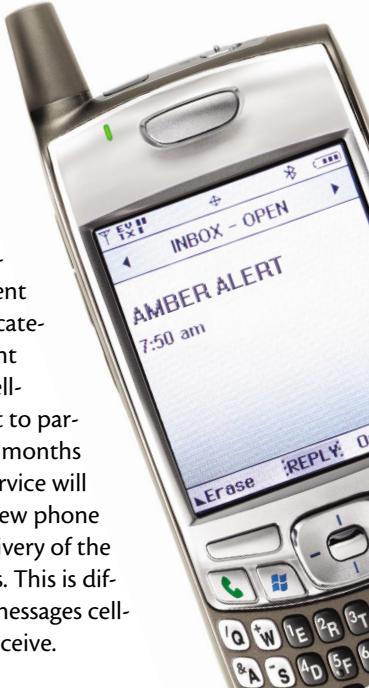
Nyko Xbox 360 Charge Base

ce news

COMPILED BY JENNIE SCHLUETER

Emergency Alerts Coming To Cell Phones

The FCC (Federal Communications Commission) is working on plans for a national mobile alert system. The CMAS (Commercial Mobile Alert System) will allow cell-phone service providers to send emergency text-message alerts from the government by 2010. Alerts will fall into three categories: presidential alerts, imminent threat alerts, and Amber alerts. Cell-phone service providers that want to participate in the service will have 10 months to upgrade their networks. The service will also require consumers to buy a new phone with a special chip that allows delivery of the one-to-many broadcast text alerts. This is different from the one-to-one SMS messages cell-phone users currently send and receive.



VZ Nav Adds Traffic Alerts

Version 4 of Verizon Wireless' VZ Navigator service became available in April on select cell phones and Windows Mobile devices. The service gives users in 75 U.S. cities real-time access to traffic information, as well as a movie and event finder, weather reports, and gas prices at nearby stations. VZ Navigator users can get a subscription with unlimited access for \$9.99 per month. Current VZ Nav subscribers are eligible for a free upgrade.



Pinnacle's PCTV: HDTV On Your PC

A new addition from Pinnacle Systems follows the high-def path most components are taking these days. The PCTV HD Stick (\$69.99; www.pinnaclesys.com) and HD Pro Stick (\$99.99) are TV tuners for your PC, meaning they deliver free digital high-def and standard-def, OTA (over-the-air) television programming to your computer. You'll simply plug the device, which is about the size of a flash drive, into a PC's USB port to enjoy HDTV on your computer. The HD Sticks are ideal for on-the-go laptop users and Windows Vista and XP Media Center users who didn't get a TV tuner with their systems.



marketplace

Worldwide PC Shipments Grew In First Quarter

According to preliminary results from Gartner, the U.S. recession had a moderate effect on PC shipments in this country in the first quarter of 2008, but nothing more than analysts had expected. The recession seems to have had little effect on global shipments, though, which were up 12.3% from the first quarter of 2007 for a total of 71.1 million units. PC shipments in the United States reached 15.2 million units in Q1 2008, up 3% from the same period last year.



	Global PC Shipments (in millions of units)	Q1 2008 Growth from Q1 2007
United States	15.2	3%
Europe/Middle East/Africa	24.8	14.9%
Asia/Pacific	19.1	19%
Latin America	6.3	19.1%
Japan	4.1	0.6%

Social-Networking Sites More Than Fun Fad

If you are under the age of 20, you're almost certainly a member of one of the many online social-networking sites such as Facebook or MySpace. What started as a way for teens to "hang out" online has turned into something of a new social phenomenon that also appeals to older, business-oriented clientele. Many enterprise users are finding uses for social-networking sites. In 2006, IDC projected that the enterprise social-networking market would grow 120% from \$46.5 million. Actual 2007 numbers showed growth of 191% to \$135.3 million.

Social Networking Market Growth Outpacing Projections

Market size in 2006	\$46.5 million
Projected in 2006	N/A
Market size in 2007	\$135.29 million
Projected in 2007	\$102.3 million
Projected market size in 2012	\$1.25 billion

Source: Gartner

Source: IDC

tidbits



Digital music sales will make up 40% of all music sales worldwide by 2012.

Source: In-Stat

An ABI Research study estimates that **802.11n Wi-Fi** will be available in 99% of North American universities by 2013.

Source: ABI Research



In Q4 2007, 4,770 consumer survey respondents reported that their Top 2 reasons for using the **Internet** were email and search capabilities.

Source: Gartner



The average American household spends about **\$1,400** a year on consumer-electronic devices.

Source: CEA (Consumer Electronics Association)



Whether text messaging, sending email or instant messages, or posting comments on social-networking sites, **85% of teens** ages 12 to 17 report using some type of CE device to communicate.

Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project

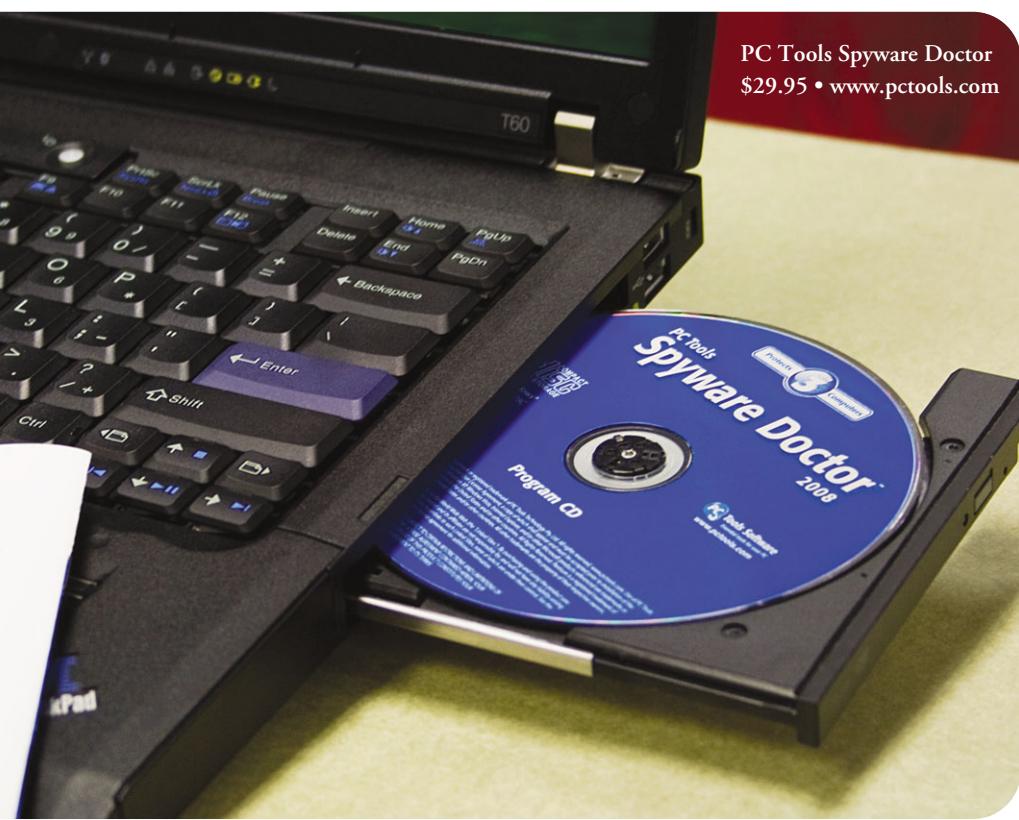


By 2013, **34% of all PNDs** (Personal Navigation Devices) will ship with onboard cellular or Wi-Fi connectivity, allowing services such as real-time traffic and live local searches.

Source: ABI Research

Your PC Needs A Checkup

Get Rid Of Digital Spies



Spyware is potentially the most dangerous form of malware on the Internet. Rather than damaging your PC as viruses do, spyware lurks in the shadows of your operating system

to gather personal information about you, such as your usernames, passwords, and financial information. Spyware designers also have a number of tricks at their disposal to track your computer activity. From monitoring your key-strokes to examining the cookies saved

by your Web browser, the sophistication of modern spyware means that you'll need a security tool that's dedicated to exterminating the sneaky software.

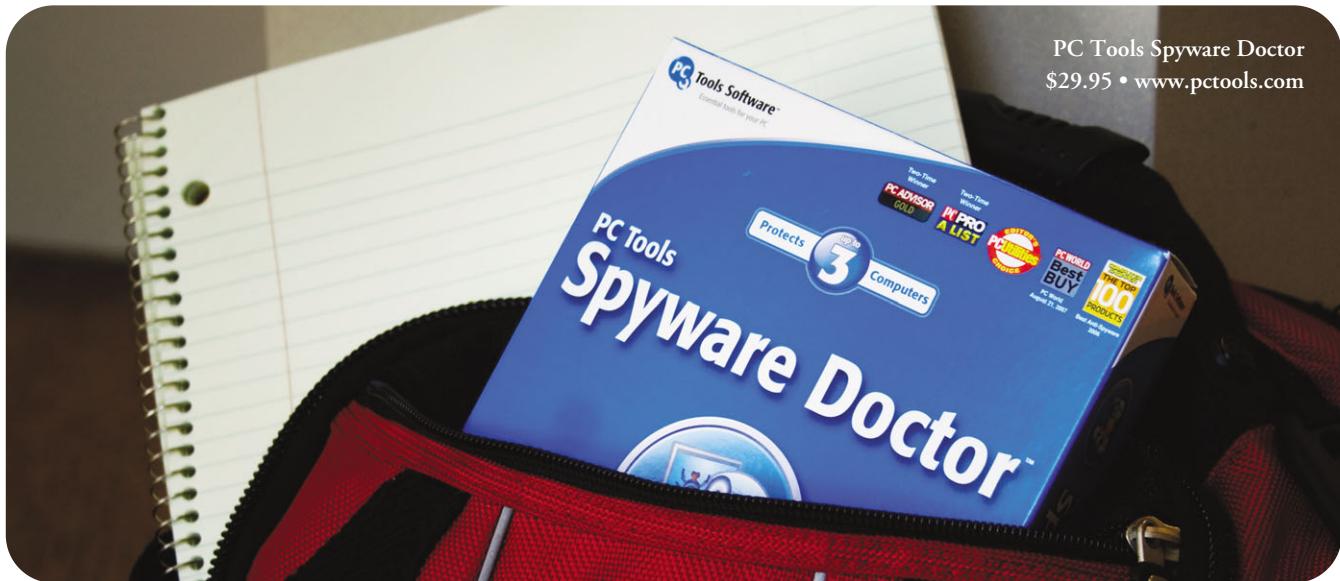
Spyware Doctor from PC Tools deeply scans your system to find the malware that's difficult to track down, including rootkits—programs that secretly modify Windows to gain access and cloak their detrimental actions. And while many free, downloadable antispyware applications stop at detection and removal, Spyware Doctor also prevents spyware—in real time—from accessing and sending out

information. For instance, Spyware Doctor can block attempts to record your keystrokes, perform suspicious changes to your Web browser settings, open unsafe attachments, or hijack your network connection. With access to PC Tools' up-to-date Infection Database, Spyware Doctor is also more capable than freeeware of removing tricky threats.

Tell Me Where It Hurts

Performing a system scan is as simple as opening the software, selecting Start Scan, and clicking the Scan Now button. Spyware Doctor offers three different types of scans: Intelli-Scan (a quick scan that only inspects the locations where malware is typically found), Full Scan (a thorough examination of the files in all drives, applications, and other locations where malware resides), and Custom Scan (perfect for checking specific folders or data stored on your home network).

Because nothing's more annoying than when your PC slows to a crawl during a security scan, Spyware Doctor is designed to run without bogging down your computer activity. Note that a Full Scan will take more time than an Intelli-Scan, but the deep scan offers you better protection. If you find that you don't always have time to run a Full Scan, you can take advantage of Spyware Doctor's Scheduled Tasks feature, which lets you configure Spyware Doctor to run a Full Scan whenever it's most convenient for you, such as when you're at work or asleep.



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Take Action

When a scan finishes, you can choose to quarantine or remove any found malware infections. The Quarantine option allows Spyware Doctor to keep threats under wraps without removing files you need on your PC. If any files turn out to be necessary, you can open the Quarantine list and select the Restore button to make certain files accessible again. The Quarantine list is also a handy way to examine where malware infections originated, which helps you avoid infected Web sites in the future.

Preventive Medicine

Spyware Doctor offers a comprehensive set of real-time tools to stop hidden malicious software from exploiting your PC data and Web access. The newest version of Spyware Doctor, version 5.5, also supports Behavior Guard, an innovative add-on that lets you keep tabs on spyware.

Traditional security tools use a threat database to identify spyware, but as spyware variants grow, it becomes difficult for spyware experts to update the database. Behavior Guard monitors all the

programs running on your PC and notes any suspicious actions, such as attempts to conceal detrimental activities or transmit confidential files. One questionable behavior may not trigger an alert, but once enough evidence accumulates, Behavior Guard will stop the application and clean up the files the program attempted to infect or change. This behavior-based approach means that Spyware Doctor can protect your PC against more than just known threats.

Find The Cure

With Spyware Doctor's one-year software subscription, you will have access to all PC Tools' software and spyware database updates. You can also use Spyware Doctor on up to three different computers. With vital updates and loads of features, Spyware Doctor is an antispyware tool that can virtually maintain itself and keep your PC free of any nasty infiltrators. FG

Behavior Guard: True Behavior-Based Protection

En if you regularly update your antispyware, applications relying solely on threat databases can't recognize spyware that's too new to add to the database—leaving your computer open to emerging infiltrators. Behavior-based detection, such as PC Tools' Behavior Guard, is the next evolution in malware detection. This software add-on can identify threats (both known and unknown) based on patterns of suspicious activity.

Some antispyware tools may claim to have behavior-based detection, but almost exclusively, this refers to Heuristic Analysis, which compares a suspicious file to the code and functions of known threats. Heuristic Analysis is likely to miss malware that operates in a new way or uses new code. Behavior Guard, which will be a standard feature in the 2009 release of Spyware Doctor, provides true behavioral protection against today's advanced malware threats.

Your Options For Super Sonics

Don't Miss These Audio Details



The sound of a film or TV show can add suspense, underscore a character's emotions, and portray the environmental aspects of a scene. If the speakers integrated in your HDTV are providing only muffled elements of these audio details, then you may want a home-theater audio system, which can give you the depth and realism you want. Generally, audio systems are broken down into three categories: 5.1 channel, 2.1 channel, and sound bars. We'll explain the differences and help you determine which type of audio system suits you best.

5.1 Channel

Most DVDs and BDs (Blu-ray Discs) offer at least one 5.1-channel mix, which means that a sound engineer has created five distinct tracks of audio and one channel for bass effects. A 5.1-channel surround system includes five

speakers—one for each audio track—and the .1 subwoofer to produce the deep bass sounds. By placing the five speakers around your listening area, you'll experience the enveloping audio you hear in a movie theater.

Because the speakers physically surround you, 5.1-channel systems offer more realistic surround-sound effects than the virtual surround sound of 2.1-channel and sound bar systems. In short, if your audio priority is movie-theater sound, a 5.1-channel system is the way to go. The only downside is that, for best results, you'll need to appropriately position the five speakers, which may adversely affect the room's aesthetic appeal.

2.1 Channel

A 2.1-channel system consists of two stereo speakers and one subwoofer. If you don't have space for five speakers, a

2.1-channel system creates a sound stage that's comparable to 5.1 models, and you won't have to conceal long runs of speaker wire.

Although 5.1 systems have more speakers, a 2.1 set with high-quality speakers may sound more vibrant and rich than 5.1 systems that use lower-quality speakers. And using the virtual surround-sound technology built into the A/V receiver, many 2.1 systems do a decent job of tricking your ears into believing sound is coming from all corners of the room.

Sound Bars

These one-piece wonders are ideal if you want excellent sound quality without dealing with cabling concerns or boxy speakers. Sound bars offer a slim, horizontal design that's less obtrusive than traditional speakers, and many of the combo systems can be wall-mounted to match the style of a mounted, flat-panel HDTV.

Sound bars imitate surround sound by delaying parts of the audio and tweaking volume through either audio processing or sound-wave reflections. If you have an open floor plan, avoid models that rely on sound-wave reflection because you may miss the virtual surround effects. Sound bars have the ability to produce some bass, but if you prefer booming sound in your movies and music, many models come with or offer inputs for a traditional subwoofer. **FG**

BY NATHAN LAKE

Your Home Theater Go-To Guys

Best Buy's Home Theater Installation Services

Back in the day, setting up a TV was a cinch, but it's complicated now. The Geek Squad Home Theater Installation service lets you sit back and envision your ultimate viewing and listening environment, while leaving the design, configuration, and installation to the Geek Squad's trained experts.

In-Home Consultation

The Geek Squad offers an in-home consultation service. Schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-GEEK SQUAD (1-800-433-5778) or by visiting your local Best Buy and speaking to a customer specialist.

The Geeks spend roughly an hour helping you build your dream A/V system. The experts perform a preliminary walkthrough of your home, discussing with you the possibilities and offering advice on choosing products that meet your needs. The cost of the service, which includes a detailed estimate of costs and a diagram of the proposed layout, is \$100. If you buy your equipment at Best Buy and spend more than \$499, you can apply the cost of your consultation toward the purchase.

In-store experience. Many Best Buy stores feature a Magnolia demo room, in which you'll see and hear what a high-performance home-theater setup should look and sound like in a comfortable living room-like setting. A Geek Squad expert will ascertain what it is that you want

Available Services

Geek Squad offers a range of flexible and comprehensive services to help you realize your ideal home-theater system.

- Consultation
- Delivery and setup
- TV mounting
- Speaker installation
- Universal remotes
- Home theater calibration

from your home-theater system. They'll also make sure you'll have the proper cables and accessories to make it work, as well as ensure you're informed about the product. For instance, if you purchase a new HDTV, the Geek Squad can inform you about the local availability of digital cable, satellite, and over-the-air services.

In-home installation. The Geek Squad's basic TV & Video Setup costs \$150 and includes the plugging in, configuring, and setting up of three select video components. Add audio integration for another \$50, bringing the Home Theater Setup to \$200. Other services, such as calibration, remote control programming, and stand assembly, are available, as well.

One-Stop Shop

You already know that you can get the products you want at Best Buy, and now you know that you can get it all

Price Breakdown

Geek Squad offers a fairly complete list of professional installation services that feature a clear pricing scheme so you can make sure you get a system that fits your lifestyle and your budget.

- In-Home Consultation: \$100
- TV & Video Setup: \$150
- Home Theater Setup: \$200
- Basic Flat Panel TV Mounting
20 inches and under: \$300
21 to 32 inches: \$400
33 inches and up: \$500
- Front Projector Mounting: \$600
- Speaker Mounting
One speaker: \$100
Two to three speakers: \$200
Four to five speakers: \$300
Six to seven speakers: \$400
- Remote Control Programming:
\$150
- Remote Control Programming
with Advanced Settings: \$300

installed and configured to your liking with the help of Best Buy's Geek Squad Home Theater Installation service. Perhaps the most important aspect of the service is that the Geek Squad experts will teach you to become the expert of your own home theater. **FG**

BY ANDREW LEIBMAN

Essential Things To Know

Home Theater

Universal Remote Controls

How does a universal remote improve my home-theater experience?

ANSWER: You won't need to grab several remotes each time you want to watch a movie or TV show. Also, some universal remotes simplify a sequence of actions that run with the push of a button.

Can a universal remote control all of the components in my home theater?

ANSWER: Yes, universal remotes are either programmable or preprogrammed with control codes for thousands of home-theater components.

Will a universal remote offer the same features found on my original remote?

ANSWER: Many universal remotes have the ability to learn commands from previous remote controls, which lets you add missing functions. Look for a learning model for maximum compatibility.

If I'm using a universal remote for multiple devices, will I have buttons for all of those devices?

ANSWER: Depending on which device you want to control, a remote with an LCD will let you select from a variety of controls that are specific to the device.

Speaker Systems

How should I compare speaker systems I'm considering purchasing?

ANSWER: Use actual CD/DVDs from your media library to hear how the speakers perform. At an A/V store, ask if a listening/testing room is available. At an electronics store, ask to turn surrounding systems off temporarily while testing.

What should I listen for audio-wise when testing a speaker system?

ANSWER: Foremost, listen for audio that pleases your ears. Test also for high volume support without distortion; front speakers that don't compensate for a weak subwoofer; lush, deep, lively basses; bright, clear, crisp midtones; and distinct, non-tinny highs.

How long should a speaker system last?

ANSWER: Getting 20 or more years from a quality speaker system isn't unheard of. In fact, many audio-visual experts consider speaker systems among the best long-term investments among all consumer electronics.

How do I estimate how much speaker wire I'll need?

ANSWER: Measure the distances from your A/V receiver to where you'll place each speaker and add 6 to 10 feet to each distance to allow enough slack to conceal the wires under floorboards or weave around obstacles.



DVRs

Do I need a satellite or cable subscription to use a DVR?

ANSWER: Only in the case of certain DVRs; for example, DirecTV brand DVRs require a subscription to DirecTV service, while other brands such as TiVo are service agnostic.

How many hours of TV can I record on a DVR?

ANSWER: It depends on the size of the DVR's hard drive and whether you record SD or HD programming. Some DVRs will conveniently specify size in hours instead of gigabytes.

What's the difference between DVR and DVD-R?

ANSWER: A DVR is a device that records content from your TV to its own hard drive. A DVD-R is a DVD recordable format.

What features differentiate TiVo receivers from one another?

ANSWER: There are three TiVo DVRs: the original, Series 2, and Series 3. Differences include storage capacity, the ability to pause live TV, and being able to record more than one program at a time.

Flat-Panel TVs

Why should I buy an HDTV?

ANSWER: An HDTV provides a wide screen for movies, plus a more detailed picture for Blu-ray Discs and high-def TV channels. Some also have a tuner for digital broadcasts.

What are 1080, 720, and 480?

ANSWER: These numbers represent video resolutions by their picture height. High-def 1080 video is 1,920 pixels wide by 1,080 pixels high; high-def 720 video, 1,280 x 720; and standard DVD/TV is 720 x 480.

What do the "i" and "p" stand for in 720p, 1080i, and 1080p?

ANSWER: These letters indicate whether an HDTV displays each frame of the picture all at once (progressive scan) or alternates odd and even horizontal lines of pixels (interlaced). Usually, progressive scan is the preferred option.

Do I need a built-in tuner in a new HDTV?

ANSWER: Yes, if you plan to watch broadcast digital channels using an antenna. If you only watch cable or satellite channels, you don't need a tuner. HDTV tuners should be ready for the FCC-mandated shift to digital broadcasting.

Yes, You Need To Calibrate

Give Your HDTV A Makeover

It's probably for the best that we consumers don't have access to the settings that will make our HDTVs look their best. Sure, you can use a calibration disc, but chances are good that the TV's menu controls won't let you do everything those discs suggest you do. The advanced stuff requires a trip to the HDTV's service menu, which is accessed by punching a secret code into your remote control. We don't advise that you do so, however, because you can ruin your TV.

The HDTV manufacturers keep the code a secret for a reason: Poking around in the wrong places can have devastating consequences. "Consumers should never go into the service menu," says Ira George, an ISF-certified Elite Services Specialist for Geek Squad (www.bestbuy.com; go to TV & Home Theater Installation) in Omaha, Nebr. "If they don't know what they're doing, they will render the TV useless."

Indeed, one ISF-certified calibrator we spoke with years ago during a calibration session told us the sad tale of a customer who entered the service menu

and accidentally turned off the electron guns used to display an image on the screen. He couldn't see anything—including the service menu—and his television was essentially broken until the ISF calibrator arrived to save the day.

As if going into the service menu isn't perilous enough, there's not much the average consumer can do once they get there. You need pricey equipment to adjust the settings found there—exactly the kinds of equipment ISF-certified calibrators have. "We use calibration equipment provided by Sencore," says George. "It is a color analyzer that is used to set the white balance of the customers' displays. Without that equipment, customers cannot accurately set the colors of their televisions."

What To Expect From A Calibration

If you decide to call in the Geek Squad Home Theater Calibration team to calibrate your HDTV, you can expect the techs to establish maximum contrast between black and white, so images

look their best and retain maximum detail. The ISF-certified Elite Service Specialist will also use color analyzer equipment to objectively tune color saturation and temperature as precisely as possible,

letting you see video exactly the same way that the person creating it did.

A calibration session includes two inputs on the set, so if you have a DVD player and cable box, for example, the HDTV's inputs will be calibrated specifically for the video output from those two devices. Calibration also adjusts the sound levels and positioning of the speakers in a surround-sound setup, so your entire home theater will look and sound as good as it can. ☀

There are only a few downsides to calibration. The first is that it can't be done right out of the box. "It is recommended that the TV have at least 100 hours of use before a calibration can be performed properly," says George. There also are a few things calibration can't overcome. "Calibration cannot correct alignment issues in rear-projection TVs," George says. "Calibration also cannot correct any service issues with the TV."

Although you can expect to budget 10 to 15% of the purchase price of your television for a professional calibration session, consider it an entertainment investment that will pay dividends for years to come. **EG**

BY TRACY BAKER





Going Digital

How Will The Upcoming TV Conversion Affect You?



On Feb. 17, 2009, television broadcasters across the nation will begin sending out their programming via DTV (digital TV) signals.

Why Digital?

Analog broadcasts have worked well for a long time, so many wonder why we have to make the switch at all, let alone next year. There are a variety of reasons to go digital, but the primary one is to conserve what has quickly become one of our most precious natural resources: radio spectrum. There's a fixed amount of spectrum, meaning there are only so many frequencies available to handle television, radio, cell phone, networking, emergency, and other wireless traffic.

Analog and digital transmissions eat up the same amount of bandwidth, but there's a big difference between the two technologies. Digital transmissions can have compression and other techniques applied that are off-limits to analog transmissions. These tricks let broadcasters

squeeze several digital channels into the same amount of bandwidth that one analog channel requires. This is important where HDTV broadcasts are concerned because HDTV transmissions require more bandwidth than standard-definition channels. We have no way to increase available radio spectrum, so we must decrease the amount of spectrum each channel requires. Digital is vital today, where hundreds of channels must coexist.

What About Analog?

An analog TV can't use a digital signal. A DAC (digital-to-analog converter) must receive the incoming digital signal, convert it to analog, and output the signal to your analog TV. If you have an analog TV and subscribe to cable or satellite (digital or otherwise), you already have the hardware that incorporates a DAC—so few of us will notice the difference once the content switches to all-digital.

If you're using an antenna to pull in free OTA (over-the-air) broadcasts, you may have a problem. Right now, broadcasters transmit digital and analog OTA signals simultaneously, but on Feb. 17, 2009, the

analog transmissions will stop. If your TV has an analog tuner, you'll need a DAC box to convert the digital signal. If your TV has a digital tuner, however, you'll be able to enjoy OTA broadcasts. Check out the "Are You Ready For DTV?" sidebar for a convenient breakdown.

If your TV was manufactured after March 1, 2007, it has to have a digital tuner. Otherwise, check the manual or call the manufacturer to see what type of tuner is installed. Keep in mind that even if you have a digital HDTV, it may still have an analog tuner, as crazy as that sounds.

DACs will be available when the switch is made, but they won't be free, the NTIA (National Telecommunications & Information Administration) is subsidizing the cost. The most important thing to keep in mind before the transition is that there's no need to panic. Your old TVs won't become worthless, and new TVs will be ready to go once the digital switch is thrown, without you needing to buy any additional hardware, cables, or other accessories. **FG**

BY TRACY BAKER

Are You Ready For DTV?

Most of us are already prepared to usher in the age of all-digital television, but refer to this chart for each television you have in the house to see what type of hardware you need come Feb. 17, 2009.

What Tuner Type Does Your TV Have?	How Do You Receive Your TV Signal?	What You Need For The DTV Transition:
An analog tuner	Over-the-air	A DAC (digital-to-analog converter) box
An analog tuner	Via cable or satellite service	Your existing cable or satellite equipment
A digital tuner	Over-the-air, cable, or satellite service	Nothing extra at all

HDTVs

The Goods On LCDs, Plasmas & RPTVs

BY KATHRYN DOLAN

LCD

Pros

- Thin profiles and light weight make these televisions easy to mount on a wall.
- Power demands are a bit lower than comparably sized plasma displays and considerably lower than CRTs.
- Many LCD TVs have a VGA input, so you can hook up your computer and view content on a big, bright screen.
- Altitude and air pressure have no affect on LCD TVs, so performance doesn't suffer in the mountains.
- Crystals untwist to block unnecessary white light, so there's no glare, making LCD TVs ideal for sunny rooms and brightly lit areas.

Cons

- Fast-moving images may suffer from a slight trailer-effect, but as LCD technology has improved, the effect is barely perceptible.
- When pixels stick on or off, they show up as either a pinpoint of bright light or black and can be distracting on-screen.

Best For

- Bright, sunny kitchens
- Small rooms

Plasma

Pros

- Plasma TVs light phosphors evenly across the screen to create images, and the images are consistently bright and clear with vibrant colors.
- The contrast ratio is high (3,000:1), so you'll see deep, dark blacks and bright, crisp whites.
- The design and technology lend themselves to large screen sizes—typically 50 inches or greater.
- Rapid pixel response means no blurry images.
- Wide-viewing angles gives you the same, high-quality images on-screen no matter where in the room you're sitting.
- Because of the way the electrical pulses excite the gases, a plasma TV retains its bright colors and high contrast ratio in dimly lit rooms, making a plasma TV ideal for home-theater rooms with little ambient light.

Cons

- Because the screens are typically over 50 inches in diameter, plasma TVs consume roughly one-third more energy than same-sized LCD TVs, but it's still less than CRTs.
- A combination of low air pressure and high altitudes (6,500 feet and higher) may cause plasma TVs to buzz.

Best For

- Movies with nonstop action
- Sporting events

RPTV

Pros

- Although often heavier than their LCD and plasma counterparts, RPTVs are surprisingly lightweight for their sizes. For example, a 73-inch DLP (digital light projector) RPTV weighs only 93 pounds.
- You'll find exceptional picture quality on very big screens (65 inches and up).
- As screens get bigger, RPTVs are more cost-effective than LCD or plasma TVs.

Cons

- With depths of 16 to 24 inches, these TVs are far too big and bulky to mount on a wall.

Best For

- Big, roomy home theaters
- Movies and games



HDTVs

5 Must-Have Accessories

As you head toward the HDTV section of your local consumer-electronics store, you'll invariably pass shelves of bland-looking HDTV accessories.

Sure, these accessories have multi-channel audio, gold-plated connectors, nitrogen-injected insulation, and fully-articulating mounting arms, but they can't compete visually with their big-screen, flat-panel HDTV counterparts.

Despite outward appearances, however, there are a handful of accessories that are vital to getting the most from your HDTV. **FG**

BY ANDREW LEIBMAN



1 **Wall mounts** let you display your HDTV to its greatest advantage. To help you see your TV from the best possible viewing angle, look into a swivel mount, which lets you adjust the vertical and horizontal positions. A wall-mounted HDTV also clears a bit of floor space and keeps your living room or home theater neat and clutter-free. Before hanging the wall mount and installing the television, make sure your theater recliners and couches are positioned where you'll be happy with them for a while so you don't have to drill new holes in the walls every time you want to rearrange the furniture.

2 **TV stands** are a good option if you'd rather not drill holes in your family room's newly painted walls. Likewise, if your walls are made of cement or cinderblock, a stand is probably a better option than a wall mount. Today's A/V furniture manufacturers offer gorgeous, showroom-style stands in a variety of materials, including warm wood (available in many stains), minimalist brushed steel, and clean-looking glass. You can get a triangular corner model, a high-backed cabinet that includes a mount for flat-panel HDTVs, and a rack with adjustable shelves to accommodate the rest of your A/V gear.



3 **HDMI cables** eliminate the need for multiple cables. HDMI cables are all-in-one cords that carry uncompressed digital audio/video signals to and from your HDTV and its components, eliminating the need for separate A/V cables. Well-shielded cables cost a bit extra, but they're worth it because they eliminate interference from other components. Another feature you'll appreciate on the more costly cables is the connection—because the connector is well-built, it'll fit snugly in the port, so the cable won't work free when pets and small children accidentally jostle the cables.



4 **A surround-sound system** brings the aural experience of a theater home. You've perhaps struggled to keep volume levels steady while watching TV. The intrusion of a loud commercial in the middle of your favorite show is startling; likewise, it's jolting when a quiet part of your favorite movie is suddenly interrupted by a too-loud scene change. A good-quality surround-sound system will feature an equalizer, which will prevent volume extremes in movies and HD broadcasts that are capable of 5.1 or better surround sound.



5 **A universal remote** lets you control all of your A/V equipment with one device. No one—not your mom, dad, grandma, or even the kids—can figure out the remotes when there's a different one for each component in your home-theater system. Consolidate the controls with a programmable universal remote, which lets you control everything with a single device. Many of these devices let you control as many as 15 devices at once, and some have a color LCD with backlighting, so you can see what you're opting to control in your dimly lit home theater.



HDTV Glossary

B

alderdash! OK, HDTV jargon isn't *that* bad, but there are a few terms every shopper should know. Here's your cheat sheet.

aspect ratio—Put simply, it's the shape of the TV's screen. An HDTV has a wider picture than a traditional TV of the same vertical screen height. An HDTV has a 16:9 aspect ratio, meaning that if its screen were 16 inches wide, it would be 9 inches tall. A regular 4:3 TV screen would be 12 inches wide at the same 9-inch height.

HDMI—High-Definition Multimedia Interface is a new type of cable connection. It can carry both high-resolution video and uncompressed, multichannel audio among HDTVs, home-theater receivers, and other components. HDMI cables are pricey, but they maintain top picture and sound quality.

HD tuner—Some more expensive HDTVs include a built-in tuner for receiving local high-def broadcast TV channels. Your TV doesn't need an HD tuner if you have cable or satellite service. Separate HD tuners and antennas are available for HDTVs without them.

interlaced—When an HDTV displays an interlaced image, as in 1080i or 480i resolutions, it really shows you every other horizontal line of a frame of video (called a field) at a time. Sixty times a second, the TV displays the other field of the frame, meaning the lines not shown in the previous field. Interlaced video appears to flicker and causes moving objects on-screen to have blurred edges.

LCD (liquid-crystal display)—Like a notebook's screen, an LCD HDTV uses



a fluid crystal substance to form pixels of color in front of a backlight. LCDs may not be able to match plasma TVs' deep black and gray areas, but they're lighter, sometimes less fragile, and considered easier to set up. LCDs also are catching up to plasmas in size and price and are expected to supplant them in the market.

plasma—Plasma TVs use a tiny tube of gas for each pixel. Electricity makes each pixel glow. Plasmas are still available in bigger sizes than LCDs and create deeper blacks and sometimes brighter colors. However, older or less expensive models can also suffer permanent screen damage if an unchanging image is displayed too long, such as a TV channel's stock ticker or parts of certain video games.

progressive scan—A TV showing a progressively scanned image, as in 1080p or 720p resolutions, displays a full frame of video (both odd-lined and even-lined

fields) all at once. Progressive-scan video looks sharper and doesn't flicker like interlaced images can.

projection—Some large-screen HDTVs offer low-priced alternatives to LCD or plasma by using projection technologies. These technologies vary, but all projection TVs throw light on a screen from the front or rear. This means they are a little to a lot bulkier than plasmas or LCDs, but some rear-projection sets have stellar picture quality.

viewing angle—No matter where you sit in front of an HDTV with a wide viewing angle, such as 170 degrees, its picture should look reasonably good. Test this before you buy.

widescreen—A TV or monitor that's wider horizontally in relation to its vertical height—typically with a 16:9 aspect ratio for HDTVs—than an older 4:3 display.



DLP® TV

Diamond—A History Of Distinction



Mitsubishi Diamond
835 Series SuperSlim
1080p DLP HDTVs
(WD-65835/WD-73835)

MSRP: 65-inch model \$2,999
73-inch model \$4,299

SKUs: 8886896 (65-inch model)
8886912 (73-inch model)

www.mitsubishi-tv.com

Quick Overview

Mitsubishi's Diamond models have come to represent their devotion to timeless design, commitment to quality, and the pursuit of innovation while never losing sight of what is most important to the customer. This proud tradition is evident in their large-screen DLP® HDTVs. The result is an all-picture sensation that puts you in the middle of all the action.

Perfect For

With 1080p, a compact cabinet, and simple design, Mitsubishi's Diamond DLP® HDTVs are perfect for those who want a large screen that won't take up a lot of space.

Outstanding Benefits

- **1080p DLP® display** with Tru1080p™ and Plush1080p® Processing
- **Exclusive 6-Color Processor™** generates a brighter and wider range of colors and creates whiter whites
- **Smooth 120Hz™*** minimizes motion blur
- **xv.Color™**, a new standard for HDTV, enables more color than ever before
- **Color 4D Video Noise Reduction, PerfectColor™, and PerfectTint™*** allow for additional advanced color processing and adjustment
- **Dark Detailer™*** for optimal viewing of dark, dramatic scenes
- **SharpEdge™*** creates crisp, sharp edges for stunning picture precision
- **NetCommand®** provides a true one-remote control home-theater system

Coolest Feature

Once 3D video content becomes readily available, these **3D Ready** HDTVs will offer exciting HDTV experiences.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores (Magnolia Home Theater) and www.bestbuy.com

* Diamond Step Up Feature



DLP® TV

Live Your Entertainment, Don't Just Watch It



Mitsubishi 73-inch
SuperSlim 1080p DLP
HDTV (WD-73735)

MSRP: \$2,999

SKU: 8824329

www.mitsubishi-tv.com

Quick Overview

The Mitsubishi experience is brought to life with the new 735 Series DLP® HDTVs. The 735 Series delivers an all-picture sensation that puts you in the middle of all the action. And with the 3D Ready feature, immersion in your entertainment is even more captivating. Watch from the sidelines as your favorite team makes a game-winning play or stand back as your favorite film invades your living room.

Perfect For

The "more picture, less space" element of the 735 Series makes it perfect for those who want a top-quality, large-screen HDTV in a smaller space.

Outstanding Benefits

- **1080p DLP® display**
- **Exclusive 6-Color Processor™** generates brighter colors, a wider range of colors, and whiter whites
- **xv.Color™**, a new standard for HDTV, enables more color than ever before
- **Color 4D Noise Reduction, PerfectColor™, and PerfectTint™** allow for additional advanced color processing and adjustment
- **Tru1080p™ Processing** keeps your signal the way it was meant to be seen
- **Video modes:** Brilliant/Bright/Natural/Game
- **3D Ready:** Immerse yourself in your favorite game, movie, or event
- **Connectivity:** Three HDMI and three component inputs

Coolest Feature

The **front USB photo input** allows you to enjoy your favorite photos on the big screen.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse

Panasonic

Plasma TV

Optimize Your Viewing Experience



Panasonic Viera
PZ800 Series Plasma
HDTV

MSRPs: 42-inch model \$2,299.95
46-inch model \$2,799.95
50-inch model \$3,199.95

SKUs: 8743443 (42-inch model)
8740516 (46-inch model)
8740491 (50-inch model)

www.panasonic.com

Quick Overview

Spend some Viera time with your family and friends and enjoy the amazing and lifelike picture and sound Panasonic's new line of Viera HDTVs delivers. Panasonic's Viera PZ800 Plasma HDTV is full of great features, including an SD memory card slot and Viera Link for simplified control of all your compatible Panasonic HD Products. So cheer for your team, share your memories in a slideshow, and laugh at your favorite comedy all on your Panasonic Viera Plasma TV.

Perfect For

Anyone looking for a great HDTV experience will enjoy the included image-enhancing technologies.

Outstanding Benefits

- THX Certified Display
- Game Mode for an enhanced gaming experience
- 24p Cinematic Playback
- GalleryPlayer allows you to view digital photos on the TV screen from Secure Digital media cards
- 4 HDMI Inputs
- 5,120 equivalent shades of gradation
- Auto volume leveler prevents volume fluctuations

Coolest Feature

Viera Link gives you the power to control all of your compatible Panasonic HD Products with just one remote.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse®

SHARP

LCD TV

Changing The Face Of Flat Panel TV



Sharp AQUOS SE94 Series LCD HDTV

MSRPs: 46-inch model \$3,199.99
52-inch model \$4,199.99
65-inch model \$10,999.99

SKUs: 8747822 (46-inch model)
8747877 (52-inch model)
8734211 (65-inch model)

www.sharpusa.com

Quick Overview

Sharp's new "Special Edition" SE94 LCD TV series lets you enjoy the superior performance of an AQUOS while accessing customized Web-based content directly from the TV's remote control. The SE94 AQUOS line features industry-best contrast ratios for a vivid picture, as well as a 4ms pixel response time and 120Hz 10-bit panel, so you can enjoy fast-moving sporting events and action films without ever missing a beat.

Perfect For

Those who want a great picture, sleek design, and cutting-edge technology.

Outstanding Benefits

- Full HD 1080p (1920 x 1080) resolution for the sharpest picture possible
- 120Hz Fine Motion Advanced for the ultimate in fast-motion picture quality
- Enhanced Black Levels provide the deepest, most accurate black of any flat-panel TV
- Wide Viewing Angles (176°H x 176°W)
- Cornerstone Design, featuring a unique, textured finish, makes for elegant placement in any room

Coolest Feature

AQUOS Net delivers customized **Web-based content** and live customer support via Ethernet, viewable in fullscreen, split-screen, or "widget" format.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores (Magnolia Home Theater) and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse

On-Wall Furniture Modern Meets Practical



**Sanus Vertical AV Foundations™
(VF2012-B1/VF2022-B1)**

MSRP: VF2012 \$149.99
VF2022 \$249.99

SKUs: 8783925 (VF2012)
8783934 (VF2022)

www.sanus.com

Quick Overview

Sanus Vertical AV Foundations™ combine the storage capacity of a cabinet with the discreet look of a low-profile wall mount. These versatile and stylish wall-mounted A/V stands literally fade into the woodwork of any home. The Vertical AV Foundations™ "float" below a wall-mounted TV.

Perfect For

The VF2012-B1 and VF2022-B1 are perfect for securely holding A/V components below a wall-mounted TV. They also free up valuable floor space.

Outstanding Benefits

- Strong, adjustable glass shelves are easy to install and securely hold components
- Hidden cable management channels create a "wireless" look
- Simple three-step installation
- Easy post-installation positioning adjustments ensure perfect placement below a wall-mounted TV
- Open architecture allows components to breathe

Coolest Feature

Two cable management channels along each vertical column allow power and signal cable separation to preserve signal quality.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores (Magnolia Home Theater) and www.bestbuy.com



Home-Theater Furniture The Name Means "Beautiful"



Bell'O AVSC-2061E Audio Video Television System*

MSRP: \$699.99

SKU: 8715633

www.bello.com

Quick Overview

Designed for today's larger flat-panel televisions, the AVSC-2061E combines traditional with contemporary by aligning wood with sleek, glass shelves. This impressive, solidly crafted wood furniture piece features an Espresso finish with black, tempered safety glass. The AVSC-2061E gives wood furniture a modern update with its glass shelving for a stunning, open-architecture design.

Perfect For

The AVSC-2061E fits seamlessly with any existing home decor and is designed for those wanting to elegantly display their home-theater system.

Outstanding Benefits

- Houses six or more audio/video components
- Includes the integrated CMS® (Cable Management System) to hide wires and interconnect cables while providing optimum air ventilation for the largest A/V components
- Accommodates most flat-panel and microdisplay TVs up to 65 inches
- Italian contemporary design complements virtually any home decor
- Measures 24-1/8 x 62-1/8 x 18.5 inches (HxWxD)

Coolest Feature

The patented **Cable Management System** securely hides unsightly wiring to help keep your home theater looking great.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores (Magnolia Home Theater) and www.bestbuy.com

* Television and appliances not included.

FirstGlimpse



Digital Sound Projector

True Surround Sound From A Single Unit

**Yamaha YSP-900
Digital Sound
Projector**

MSRP: \$899.95

SKU: 8506967

www.yamaha.com



Quick Overview

The elegant and space-saving Yamaha Digital Sound Projector is an exciting breakthrough in home-theater technology. Thanks to this easy-to-install audio component, you'll no longer need to invest in multiple speakers, look at clutter, or attempt to hide wires in your home-theater setup. Instead, you can sit back and enjoy true multi-channel surround sound.

Perfect For

Yamaha's Digital Sound Projector is ideal for anyone who wants a stylish, single audio unit that offers a true multi-channel surround-sound experience.

Outstanding Benefits

- Employs 21 individual speakers, two woofers, and a built-in digital amplifier
- Dolby Digital, DTS, Dolby Pro Logic II, and DTS Neo:6 compatibility
- TruBass uses harmonics to make the bass from small speakers deeper and richer for a more dynamic bass sound
- My Beam mode directs the sound to listener's position
- Elegant, space-saving design complements a wall- or stand-mounted plasma, LCD, or rear-projection display; can also be wall-mounted

Coolest Feature

Yamaha's exclusive **IntelliBeam™** feature makes setup a breeze by automatically configuring and setting the best sound beam angles and modes to fit the size and shape of your room.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse®



Universal Remote

Replace All Your Other Remotes With Just One



**Logitech® Harmony® One
Advanced Universal
Remote**

MSRP: \$249.99

SKU: 8631411

www.logitech.com

Quick Overview

Are you still using half a dozen remotes to watch just one movie? Is everyone else in your family still relying on that cheat sheet to use the home-entertainment system? Bring more harmony to your home with a Logitech® Harmony® One Advanced Universal Remote. So advanced yet so simple to set up and use, it replaces all those other remotes and allows everyone to easily access all their favorite entertainment.

Perfect For

The Logitech® Harmony® One Remote lets families control all of their entertainment devices from a single remote.

Outstanding Benefits

- Full-color touchscreen gives you easy, one-touch access to entertainment activities
- Sculpted, backlit buttons are easy to find and allow you to manage your home entertainment, even in the dark
- New design fits comfortably in your hand, so you can relax and enjoy your home entertainment
- Built-in, rechargeable lithium-ion battery; battery level indicator lets you know when it's time to recharge the remote
- Works with 225,000 devices from more than 5,000 manufacturers

Coolest Feature

Now **just one remote** controls all your home entertainment. Just think how happy your family will be!

Available at select Best Buy™ stores (Magnolia Home Theater) and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse



DVR

Higher Intelligence For Home Entertainment



TiVo HD DVR

MSRP: \$299.99

SKU: 8386999

www.tivo.com

Quick Overview

The TiVo® HD Digital Video Recorder is premium High-Definition at an affordable price, combining the intelligence of the TiVo service with the razor-sharp clarity of HD recording. TiVo service brings you all your favorite TV shows, ready to watch whenever you want. Plus, it can connect to the Internet using your home network to deliver movies, music, photos, and more—right to your TV. All at your command with one simple remote control.

Perfect For

The person who wants to get the most out of his or her DVR at an affordable price.

Outstanding Benefits

- Controls cable TV with Record, Pause, Rewind, and Fast-Forward in HD
- Record two HD channels at once while watching another recorded show
- Records up to 20 hours in HD (or 180 hours capacity in Standard Definition)
- Sources supported: Digital cable, Analog cable, Digital Antenna (ATSC), Analog antenna (Satellite not supported)
- Download thousands of movies directly to your TiVo HD DVR
- Expandable storage with the Western Digital My DVR Expander

Coolest Feature

Transfer your favorite TV shows to your laptop or iPod using your PC or Mac when you connect your TiVo DVR to your home network and high-speed Internet connection.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores (Magnolia Home Theater) and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse

Which LCD TV Is Best For You?

So you've decided to get an LCD TV. The next step is deciding *which* LCD TV to invest in. With all the models on today's market, you want to be sure the model you select is the best for you and your family. Refer to this chart for further help when shopping.

	Size	Dimensions; Weight**	Native resolution	Viewing angle	Inputs	Outputs
What It Means	The diagonal measurement of the TV's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the TV weighs	A fixed TV resolution; images are best displayed in the native resolution	The maximum angle at which the viewer can see the screen clearly	Inputs let you connect your components to your TV	Outputs transfer information from your TV to peripherals, such as audio to speakers
	Toshiba 37AV500U MSRP: \$949.99* SKU 8740801	37 inches	36.4x24.8x 4.7 inches; 39.4 pounds	720p	N/A	2 HDMI; 2 component; 1 S-Video; 2 composite; 1 PC
	Insignia NS-LCD42HD MSRP: \$996.99* SKU 8463076	42 inches	28.6x41.4x 4.1 inches; 56.1 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	2 HDMI; 2 component; 1 S-Video; 2 composite; 1 PC
	Westinghouse TX-42F430S MSRP: \$1,199.99* SKU 8386285	42 inches	27x42.2x5.5 inches; 61.1 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	4 HDMI; 2 component; 1 S-Video; 1 RF
	LG 42LG30 MSRP: \$1,399.95* SKU 8749401	42 inches	26.4x40.7x 3.6 inches; 46.3 pounds	720p	178 degrees	3 HDMI; 3 component; 1 S-Video; 1 PC; 1 composite
	Sony Bravia KDL-40W4100 MSRP: \$1,899.99* SKU 8808276	40 inches	38.9x25.5x 4.4 inches; 45 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	4 HDMI; 2 component; 1 S-Video; 3 composite; 1 PC; 1 RF
	HP SL4778N MSRP: \$2,399.99* SKU 8419641	47 inches	29.3x44.4x 5.4 inches; 66 pounds	1080p	176 degrees	3 HDMI; 2 component; 2 S-Video; 1 PC; 1 antenna
	Sharp AQUOS LC-46SE94U MSRP: \$3,199.99* SKU 8747822	46 inches	26.3x43.7x 3.5 inches; 54 pounds	1080p	176 degrees	3 HDMI; 2 component; 1 S-Video; 3 composite
	Mitsubishi Diamond LT-46244 MSRP: \$3,299.98* SKU 8500721	46 inches	26.9x42.3x 5.6 inches; 63.3 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 3 component; 2 S-Video; 2 composite

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing. **unless specified, this is without stand

See p. 22

Which Plasma TV Is Best For You?

If you're planning on buying a plasma HDTV, it might be hard to decide on one just by looking at a wall of gorgeous sets. Refer to this chart for further help when shopping.

	Size	Dimensions; Weight**	Native resolution	Viewing angle	Inputs	Outputs
What It Means	The diagonal measurement of the TV's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the TV weighs	A fixed TV resolution; images are best displayed in the native resolution	The maximum angle at which the viewer can see the screen clearly	Inputs let you connect your components to your TV	Outputs transfer information from your TV to peripherals, such as audio to speakers
 LG 42PG20 MSRP: \$1,199.95* SKU 8749278	42 inches	26.7x40.9x3.4 inches; 53.7 pounds	720p	N/A	3 HDMI; 3 component; 1 S-Video	1 audio
 Panasonic TH-42PX80U MSRP: \$1,199.95* SKU 8722448	42 inches	26.7x40.2x 3.7 inches; 56.7 pounds	720p	N/A	3 HDMI; 2 component; 2 composite; 2 S-Video	2 audio
 Samsung PN42A450 MSRP: \$1,199.99* SKU 8749376	42 inches	26.3x41.5x3.8 inches; 59.1 pounds	720p	175 degrees	3 HDMI; 2 component; 1 PC	N/A
 Insignia NS-PDP50 MSRP: \$1,299.99* SKU 8454996	50 inches	32x51.4x4.2 inches; 95 pounds	720p	N/A	2 HDMI; 2 component; 1 S-Video; 1 RF; 1 PC	1 audio
 Panasonic TH-42PZ80U MSRP: \$1,499.95* SKU 8732838	42 inches	26.6x41.3x 4 inches; 66.1 pounds	1080p	N/A	3 HDMI; 2 composite; 2 S-Video; 2 audio	1 audio; 1 video
 Pioneer PDP-5010FD MSRP: \$5,000* SKU 8454683	50 inches	31.4x48.6x4.8 inches; 84.9 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 2 component; 1 S-Video; 3 composite	4 audio
 LG 60PY3D MSRP: \$5,399.95* SKU 8378677	60 inches	37.8x63.5x4.6 inches; 142.4 pounds	1080p	N/A	3 HDMI; 2 component; 2 S-Video; 2 PC; 1 RF	3 audio
 Pioneer PRO-110FD MSRP: \$6,000* SKU 8483651	50 inches	28.4x56.8x4.7 inches; 90 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 2 component; 3 composite; 1 S-Video; 1 PC; 2 RF	3 audio; 3 video

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing. **unless specified, this is without stand

Goodbye SD, Hello HD

Why An HD Camcorder Is Worth It

These days, HD and TV are like preteens and cell phones: inseparable. But the HD prefix is just as applicable to digital camcorders. Read on for info regarding what makes a camcorder high-def and why you should pay a little extra to make the transition from standard definition to HD with your camcorder.

HD In Your Hand

We all know that an HDTV, combined with the requisite high-def source or content, delivers vastly superior sharpness, color, and detail, but the same can be said with regard to HD camcorders and their ability to record those special moments. Compared to their SD counterparts, HD camcorders let you capture significantly more of the detail in the scenes and people you film. HD camcorders typically cost between \$800 and \$4,000, but you can find bargain models and high-end models that fall outside that range.

For a camcorder to be considered HD, it must be capable of playing, transmitting, or recording video at 720p, 1080i, or 1080p HD resolutions (the "i" and the "p" denote interlaced and

progressive-scan, respectively, which refer to the method by which the images are displayed on a TV). The maximum resolution, or number of horizontal pixels times the number of vertical pixels, that HD camcorders can record is 1,920 x 1,080. Camcorders that can handle this resolution are sometimes called True HD, but some inexpensive HD camcorders record video at 1,440 x 1,080 and 1,280 x 720. By contrast, SD camcorders typically support resolutions up to 640 x 480 or 480i/p.

And Then Some

Superior image quality isn't the only upside to HD camcorders. Almost all HD camcorders let you record in

widescreen format, so you can film the whole wedding party without having to ask them to crowd together. Some HD camcorders also include a multi-channel-capable mic that lets you record 5.1 spatial audio. This feature is useful when shooting large gatherings with lots of people talking at once. For the most part, HD camcorders are capable of recording still images at between 2 and 4MP. Many HD camcorders also feature HDMI ports that let you connect HDMI cables to the unit and to your HDTV for an impromptu instant replay of the baby blooper you just filmed.

Most SD and HD camcorders record video in digital format, meaning they can utilize the same media types, including MiniDV tapes, an internal hard disk drive, DVDs, and flash memory. The big difference between SD and HD camcorders is that an HD variant demands significantly more storage capacity per minute of video.

SD vs. HD Capacity Comparison

If you choose a high quality setting, your camcorder media won't last long. Conversely, a camcorder's lower-quality settings can handle longer recording sessions, but at the cost of image and sound clarity. The values below are approximate; actual quality settings and recording times vary by camcorder model.

Format	Quality Setting	Megabits Per Sec	Video Per 1GB
Standard Definition	Low	3Mbps	43 minutes
	Medium	6Mbps	22 minutes
	High	9Mbps	15 minutes
High Definition	Low	5Mbps	26 minutes
	Medium	9Mbps	15 minutes
	High	15Mbps	8 minutes

The HD Way

When you are looking for a new camcorder to help archive your memories in their most glorious detail, HD is the only way to go. FG

BY ANDREW LEIBMAN

Should You Consider A Photo Printer?

For Convenience & Hands-On Editing, You Betcha

It's a great time to own a digital camera. Several online photo-printing services offer passable to superb quality and competitive prices . . . as long as you're willing to wait a week or more for your prints.

If you're more of the do-it-yourself type, you're in luck. Plenty of high-caliber photo inkjet printers await you on the shelves of your local electronics store. Some are traditional inkjets that are really good at making photos, as well as printing documents. Others are dedicated units with special photo-printing features. From the click of your camera shutter to the emergence of a finished print, you can take and print a photo in a matter of minutes.

Faster turnaround is just one of the benefits of a photo printer. Many come with software that allows you to crop, resize, and remove red-eye from your photos using your PC. And some specialized photo printers even come with small color LCDs, memory card slots, and special controls, so you can select, edit, and print your photos without even turning on your computer.

Other features to look for include PictBridge support, which allows you to transfer photos from your camera to your printer via a USB cable; borderless printing, meaning that your photos will run right up to the edge of the paper without white borders around them;



and support for precut, photo-sized paper and specialty papers.

Finally, if you don't like the way a print turns out, you can simply edit it and

print it again. Try that with an online printing service, and you'll be right back to waiting for the mail to arrive. **FG**

BY MARTY SEMS

Photo Paper For Every Need

Your local office supply and electronics stores should carry inkjet photo paper, which can help make your printed photos look as good as traditional color prints. You'll find a variety of glossy and matte photo paper to suit your needs. Photo paper will make the colors pop and keep the details sharp, unlike run-of-the-mill printer paper.

Photo paper comes in various sizes, too. Many photo printers can handle precut sheets in sizes such as 4x6 or 5x7, which can save you the effort of cutting finished prints apart.

For the best results—vivid prints that won't easily smear, fade, or scratch—it really pays to use the brands and types of paper your printer manufacturer recommends. The reason is that there needs to be good compatibility between the coating on the paper and the ink in a particular printer's cartridges. Don't forget to adjust your printer's settings to the type of photo paper you're using before you click Print.

Essential Things To Know

Digital Imaging



Digital Camcorders

My digital camera can capture video; do I still need a digital camcorder?

ANSWER: Digital camcorders capture video at a higher quality than digital cameras and provide more video-specific controls. If video is your priority, a digital camcorder is the way to go.

Can I transfer video from a digital camcorder to a computer?

ANSWER: Camcorders with a FireWire or USB 2.0 port can transfer video to your PC. With a DVD camcorder, you could insert the disc in the PC's drive and copy the files to your PC.

Will I be able to watch video from an HD camcorder on a standard-definition TV?

ANSWER: Yes, most HD camcorders downconvert the video from high to standard definition. If yours doesn't, you can import the HD footage to your PC and output the video to a DVD.

What recording media offers the longest video recording time?

ANSWER: A hard drive-based camcorder is limited only by its drive capacity, which is often enough for several hours of video. MiniDV and MiniDVDs, at most, can record one to two hours of footage.

Memory Cards

Can I recover photos or data from a damaged or reformatted memory card?

ANSWER: To avoid further memory card damage and better your chances of retrieving lost data, we recommend you take your memory card to a professional for data recovery.

What are Class 4, Class 6, and so on?

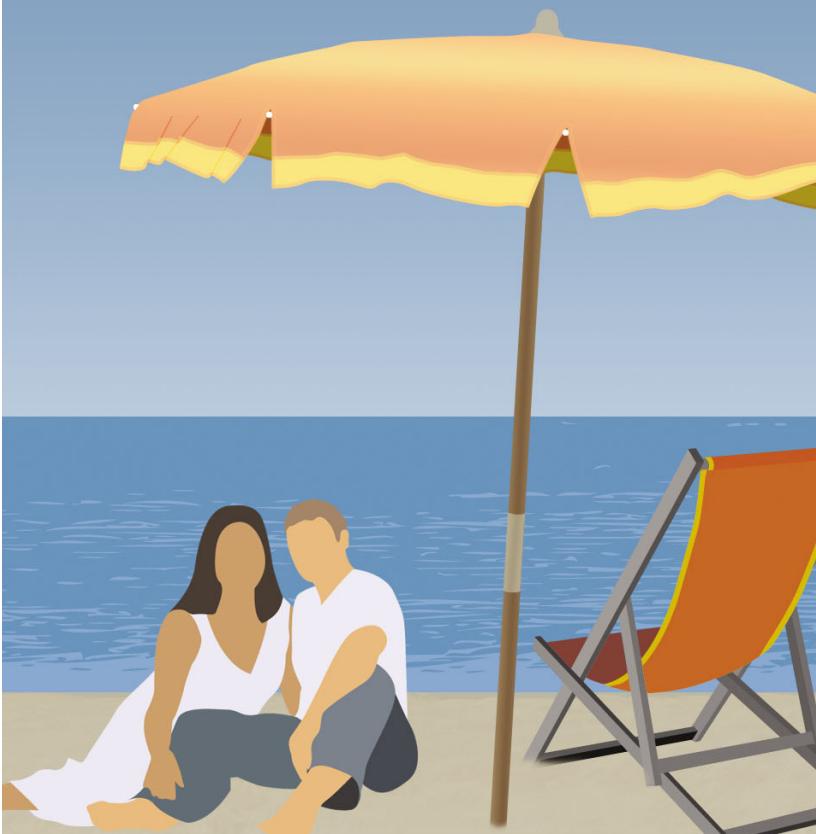
ANSWER: These classifications tell you how fast a memory card can save data. For instance, Class 4 SD cards save at 4MBps or faster, whereas Class 6 save at a minimum of 6MBps.

Will a faster memory card speed up my digital camera?

ANSWER: A memory card that saves data faster will allow you to take quicker follow-up shots.

Why do some users advise against ejecting and reinserting CompactFlash cards very often?

ANSWER: CF cards connect to two rows of tiny pins deep inside the card slot. If you insert a card incorrectly, you can bend one or more pins.



Camera Accessories

What type of camera bag should I buy?

ANSWER: Frequent travelers should consider a backpack or a shoulder case for transporting camera gear on foot. A camera pouch with foam padding will suffice for a compact digital camera user.

When do I need to use a tripod with my camera?

ANSWER: A tripod will prevent camera shake so your pictures won't appear blurry. Photos that require a longer exposure (in low-light environments, for instance) need stability to capture sharp images.

What's the best way to clean a digital camera lens?

ANSWER: First, use a soft brush to get rid of dust or grit. Remove fingerprints with a lens cleaning cloth or tissue and cleaning fluid designated for a camera lens. Never drop the cleaning solution directly onto the lens.

Photo Printers

How important is a photo printer's print speed?

ANSWER: Photo printers typically produce 4x6 photos in about 30 to 40 seconds. A slight difference in print speed won't save you much time if you plan on creating only a few prints at a time.

What print resolution should I look for in a photo printer?

ANSWER: Photo printers measure print resolution in dpi (dots per inch), which indicates how many individual dots the printer creates, per square inch, in your photo. The higher the dpi, the sharper your prints will be.

What types of paper will work with my photo printer?

ANSWER: Photo printers vary in the types of precut paper sizes they support. Check the users manual to see which sizes of paper the photo printer can handle.

Can I print images without a PC?

ANSWER: Photo printers that support PictBridge, which lets you connect your digital camera via USB cable to the printer, or have built-in memory card slots will let you print images without a PC.

Can a photo printer read my camera's memory card?

ANSWER: The photo printer will need a built-in memory card slot that's compatible with your digital camera's memory card.

Digital Camcorders

5 Must-Have Accessories

Prices for digital camcorders continue to fall as picture quality increases, which is especially good news for first-time camcorder buyers. As a first-time buyer, you may not have a good idea of what else to include in your camcorder budget. Here are a few accessories we consider must-haves. **FG**

BY THEANO NIKITAS

1

A bag protects your camcorder from potential hard knocks. Whether you have tons of DV gear or only the minimum, a camera bag or case is probably one of the most important investments you'll make. Obviously, a well-padded bag (or a hard case if you need to check your equipment when flying or are taking your gear out on a boat) will protect your camera from knocks and short drops. At the same time, a camera bag can serve as a home for your DV gear; stow all your equipment and accessories in the bag, and you won't have to turn the house upside-down to find that cable or extra DV tape.



2

UV filters are an inexpensive way to keep your lens scratch-free. If your camcorder has a threaded lens, you might want to invest in a UV (ultraviolet) filter. Some people use a UV filter to protect the lens from scratches, as well as dirt, sand, and other outdoor photo hazards, because it's much less expensive to replace a filter than a lens or camera. And, because the filter cuts down on UV light, you'll get clearer and more detailed footage when you're shooting in high-UV conditions, such as in the mountains, so those great landscape shots will look even more impressive.



3

A tripod holds your camcorder steady so guests don't get sick when they watch your vacation video. You may have smooth moves on the dance floor, but can any of us really say that we can hold a camcorder as steadily as we'd like to? Probably not. That's where a tripod comes in. A tripod that's sturdy enough to hold the weight of the camcorder (check the specs) and equipped with a three-way pan/tilt head (the head is the part the camera is attached to) will allow you to smoothly pan the action as your daughter runs up the field to score her winning soccer goal or to follow the path of a bird from the tree up to the sky as it disappears from view. And, if you want a static, steady shot, just put the camera on the tripod, press record, and let it run—just make sure to place the camera and tripod out of harm's way, especially at parties and other group events.



4

Experiment with different lens adapters, such as wide-angle or telephoto. Digital camcorders usually have a much broader zoom range than digital still cameras, but if the zoom range isn't broad enough and your camcorder accepts accessory lenses, pick up a wide-angle or telephoto adapter lens. A wide-angle lens is great for tight spots, especially when you're indoors at a party where you may be too close to your subjects to get the full view you'd like. A telephoto lens, of course, allows you to get closer to subjects that are far away, such as performers in a ring at the circus or in rugged terrain when you're searching out wildlife.



5

Spare batteries ensure that you'll be able to continue shooting your son's baseball game, even when it goes into extra innings. There are times when you'll want to shoot video in the best quality for a fairly continuous amount of time, which can drain the battery. Recharging the battery takes time that you may not have. It's a good idea to have a fully charged backup battery in your case so you don't miss any of the action—whether it's the grand finale of your daughter's piano recital; the final, exciting set of your son's varsity tennis match; or the last hour of your hike in Rocky Mountain National Park.



Digital Camera

Sleek, Slim With 7x Zoom



Olympus Stylus 1010

MSRP: \$299.99

SKU: 8695913 (black)

www.olympusamerica.com

Quick Overview

This stylish camera delivers an impressive package of features in a sleek, slim design. Equipped with a 7x optical zoom, TruePic™ III Image Processor, Shadow Adjustment technology, Dual Image Stabilization, Face Detection, Perfect Shot Preview, and Perfect Fix, the Stylus 1010 helps photographers capture crisp, clear memories in every shot.

Perfect For

The Stylus 1010 is an ideal compact camera for intermediate users who want more advanced technologies that deliver superior image quality. The Stylus 1010 is perfect for travel, parties, and family events.

Outstanding Benefits

- **7x optical zoom/5x digital zoom.**
- **10.1 megapixels.** Create large prints without losing a single detail.
- **Dual image stabilization.** Sensor-Shift Image Stabilization combines with high ISO sensitivity and fast shutter speeds to capture sharp images in any situation.
- **2.7-inch HyperCrystal™ LCD.** Provides extra-wide viewing angle.
- **Face Detection.** Tracks faces and automatically focuses and optimizes exposure for brilliant portrait pictures.
- **Shadow Adjustment Technology.** Brings out the details in shadows.

Coolest Feature

Using a live, multiframe window on the LCD, **Perfect Shot Preview** lets you see the effects of various settings before you shoot, so you can always capture the perfect shot.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

Digital Camera

Slim, Smart Performance



Olympus FE-340

MSRP: \$199.99

SKU: 8670841 (silver)

www.olympusamerica.com

Quick Overview

The Olympus FE-340 is an ultra-compact digital camera with a host of features, including a sharp 5x zoom lens, superb capture resolution up to 8MP, and an impressive 2.7-inch high-resolution color LCD. With innovative technologies such as Face Detection, Digital Image Stabilization, and the Smile Shot mode, you're sure to get a crisp, clear, vibrant shot every time.

Perfect For

The FE-340 is ideal for anyone looking for an ultra-slim camera that offers a powerful zoom, easy-to-use features, and amazing image quality at an affordable price.

Outstanding Benefits

- **8MP CCD.** Capture high-resolution images up to 3,264 x 2,448 pixels.
- **5x optical/4x digital zoom.** Get close with the compact Olympus Lens.
- **Face Detection.** Tracks faces and automatically focuses and optimizes exposure for sharp, brilliant portrait pictures.
- **Digital Image Stabilization.** Minimizes blur for the perfect shot.
- **AVI Movie with sound.** Shoot and share movies with sound on the big screen or on the Web.
- **Colors.** Available in silver (as shown), blue, red, pink, and black.

Coolest Feature

Smile Shot. Capture every spontaneous smile! The camera can detect a smile on your subject's face and automatically fire off three consecutive shots so you never miss a smile.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

Digital Camera

Make Your Movies As Portable As Your Music



Casio Exilim EX-S10

MSRP: \$249

SKU: 8719014

www.exilim.casio.com

Quick Overview

With the Exilim EX-S10, Casio sought to produce a camera with a high-resolution CCD and a very bright Super Clear LCD featuring a high contrast ratio and a wide field of view. Both the picture-taking and image-viewing capabilities of this camera have been improved, and its design presence has been enhanced by keeping it as slim as possible.

Perfect For

The person who is looking for quality digital camera features in an ultra-slim package.

Outstanding Benefits

- Show the world your videos faster than ever with the YouTube capture mode.
- Super Clear LCD lets you see your shots more clearly than ever, even in bright sunlight.
- Auto Shutter Detect Smile will shoot automatically when subjects are smiling.
- Casio Exilim will automatically analyze the scene and apply face-detection, adjust focus and exposure, and find the perfect setting.

Coolest Feature

Upload all your favorite moments to your **iPod or iPhone** in seconds so you can show them off anytime, anywhere. Drag & Drop videos into iTunes to sync with iPod or iPhone. No conversion, no complications, no worries.

Available at select Best BuyTM stores and www.bestbuy.com

Digital Camera

More Performance, More Value, More Fun



Canon PowerShot A590 IS

MSRP: \$179.99

SKU: 8739966

www.usa.canon.com

Quick Overview

The PowerShot A590 IS will astound you with its power-packed performance and impressive value. It's never been easier to shoot and share dramatic, personal photos. This 8MP camera will let you create impressive high-resolution images you'll be proud to display and zoom in for powerful close-ups at the touch of a button. Plus, Canon's Optical Image Stabilizer keeps every shot steady, even when you're not.

Perfect For

From the simple-to-use "Easy Mode" to Full Manual Control, the A590 IS is a value for all levels of photographers.

Outstanding Benefits

- New Easy Mode simplifies operation, and shooting modes such as Manual and Automatic make picture-taking carefree.
- DIGIC III Image Processor assures sharper images and better functionality; enhanced Canon Face Detection Technology sets focus, exposure, flash, and white balance automatically for greater freedom.
- Accepts Wide-Angle and Telephoto Converter Lenses for greater creativity.
- Print/Share Button for easy direct printing and downloading, plus ID Photo Print and Movie Print with select PIXMA Photo Printers and SELPHY Compact Photo Printers.

Coolest Feature

Motion Detection Technology automatically reduces blur by calculating subject movement and selecting ideal ISO settings.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

Photo Printer

Beautiful Prints, From Any Room In The House



**Canon Selphy CP760
Photo Printer**

MSRP: \$99.99

SKU: 8877717

www.usa.canon.com

Quick Overview

With the compact Selphy CP760, you can print amazing photos with ease from anywhere, even a hotel room on vacation, all without a computer! Just insert your camera's memory card into one of the built-in card slots, preview and auto-enhance images on the 2.5-inch TFT display and then print! Or, print directly from your compatible digital camera, camera phone, or Bluetooth device using the optional BU-30 Bluetooth interface.

Perfect For

Those who want wonderful, quality prints no matter where they are.

Outstanding Benefits

- Light, compact body makes it easy to take this printer with you
- Preview your prints on the 2.5-inch color TFT screen
- Large display and big buttons make it easy to use
- Print water-resistant photos that last up to 100 years in less than one minute
- Print directly from your memory cards via the card slots or wirelessly with a Bluetooth-enabled device and optional Bluetooth adapter
- Automatic red-eye correction makes sure all your photos turn out beautifully

Coolest Feature

Enhance your photos with **Portrait Image Optimize** for perfect prints every time.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse®

argus®

Digital Camera Take It Anywhere



Argus Bean

MSRP: \$59.99

SKU: 8796902

www.arguscamera.com

Quick Overview

The robust, well-equipped Argus Bean® is a 5-megapixel camera. The Bean comes with a full 1.5-inch LCD, 16MB internal Flash memory, USB output, SD upgrade slot, still/movie/playback modes, and an environmentally friendly lithium-ion rechargeable battery. All Bean models use standard SD memory cards.

Perfect For

The perfect accessory for those with an active lifestyle, the Argus Bean® can capture memories wherever you're headed with its rugged, water-resistant design.

Outstanding Benefits

- Small, nontraditional, clip-on 5-megapixel camera
- 1.5-inch LCD to view and watch your snapshots and movies
- 16MB internal flash memory can withstand the occasional bumps and drops an active lifestyle can bring
- Included USB cable for easy data transfer to your PC
- Rechargeable Li-Ion battery
- Compatible with Windows 98SE/Me/2000/XP
- Argus will donate 1% of Bean® proceeds to www.conservationsfund.org

Coolest Feature

Keep your adventures close at hand with the Argus Bean® camera. Whether camping, hiking, or just having fun, you can **take this camera anywhere**: Clip it to your backpack, purse, or belt loop for easy access at any time.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse

Which Compact Camera Is Best For You?

If you're a little confused about the most important features in a digital camera, you're not alone. In this chart, we compare features from select digital cameras available at Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com), and we also explain what these features mean.

	Resolution; Optical zoom	Shutter speed	Memory card	LCD size	Battery life	ISO	Movie mode	
What It Means	More pixels mean bigger and clearer prints; Moves the lens closer to your subject	A faster shutter speed will let you snap action photos without blur	Removable card that stores your photos in your camera	The LCD is the display on the back of the camera	Based on how many shots you can take on a single charge	A higher ISO lets you take better photos in low-light settings	Lets you record short video clips on your digital camera	
	Argus Bean MSRP: \$59.99* SKU 8796902 <i>See p. 40</i>	5MP; N/A	1/3 to 1/4,096 second	SD	1.5 inches	180 shots	Auto	Yes
	Canon PowerShot A590IS MSRP: \$179.99* SKU 8739966 <i>See p. 38</i>	8MP; 4X	15 to 1/2,000 second	SD/SDHC/MMC	2.5 inches	220 shots (AA-size alkaline battery)	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	Fuji FinePix Z20fd MSRP: \$179.99* SKU 8738752	10MP; 3X	3 to 1/1,000 second	xD-Picture Card/SD/SDHC	2.5 inches	180 shots	Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	Olympus Stylus FE-340 MSRP: \$199.99* SKU 8670841 <i>See p. 36</i>	8MP; 5X	1/2 to 1/2,000 second	xD-Picture Card	2.7 inches	240 shots	Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200	Yes
	Casio Exilim EX-S10 MSRP: \$249.99* SKU 8741551 <i>See p. 37</i>	10.1MP; 3X	1/2 to 1/2,000 second	SD/SDHC/MMC	2.7 inches	280 shots	Auto; Manual: 50, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	Kodak EasyShare V1273 MSRP: \$279.95* SKU 8796519	12MP; 3X	8 to 1/1,164 second	SD/SDHC	3 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200, 6400	Yes
	Olympus Stylus 1010 MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 8695913 <i>See p. 35</i>	10.1MP; 7X	1/2 to 1/2,000 second	xD-Picture Card/micro SD	2.7 inches	260 shots	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	Sony Cyber-shot W170 MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 8748509	10.1MP; 5X	1/4 to 1/6,000 second	Memory Stick PRO/PRO Duo	2.7 inches	370 shots	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200	Yes

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Which D-SLR Is Best For You?

As D-SLR prices keep coming down, more photographers are turning to them, both as a first camera and as a trade-up to something better. In this chart, we'll help you sort through some of the features and performance specs from select cameras available at Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com).

	Resolution	LCD size	ISO range	Kit lens	Burst speed	Shutter speed
What It Means	Image sensor in megapixels; more means a bigger image	Diagonal measure of display on back of camera	A higher ISO range will let you take better photos in low-light situations	Standard lens bundled with the camera body	Frames per second (fps) you can shoot while in burst mode	The wider the range, the greater the gamut of long exposures to frozen action
 Nikon D40 MSRP: \$499.95* SKU 8139169	6.1MP	2.5 inches	200 to 1600	18-55mm f/3.5 - f/5.6 ED II AF-S DX Zoom-Nikkor lens	N/A	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
 Olympus Evolt E-420 MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 8800363	10MP	2.7 inches	100 to 1600	14-42mm f3.5-5.6 Zuiko lens	N/A	2 to 1/4,000 seconds
 Canon EOS Rebel XSi MSRP: \$899.99* SKU 8794691	12.2MP	3 inches	100 to 1600	EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS	3.5fps up to 53 shots	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
 Sony Alpha DSLR-A350 MSRP: \$899.99* SKU 8781277	14.2MP	2.7 inches	100 to 3200	DT 18-70mm f/3.5-5.6	2.5fps to card capacity	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
 Panasonic Lumix DMC-L10K MSRP: \$1,299.95* SKU 8815464	10.1MP	2.5 inches	100 to 1600	LEICA D VARIO-ELMAR 14-50mm f/3.8-f/5.6	3fps to card capacity	60 to 1/4,000 seconds
 Olympus E-3 MSRP: \$1,699* SKU 8682776	10.1MP	2.5 inches	100 to 3200	N/A (body only)	5fps to card capacity	60 to 1/8,000 seconds
 Nikon D300 MSRP: \$1,799.95* SKU 8624036	12.3MP	3 inches	200 to 3200	N/A (body only)	6fps to card capacity; 8fps with optional battery pack	30 to 1/8,000 seconds
 Canon EOS 5D MSRP: \$3,299.99* SKU 8268162	12.8MP	2.5 inches	100 to 1600	EF 24-105mm f/4 L IS USM lens	3fps up to 60 shots	30 to 1/8,000 seconds

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Which Digital Camcorder Is Best For You?

Digital camcorders come in a number of formats: DVD, hard drive, MiniDV, and high definition are the most common. By comparing the following digital camcorders available at Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com), you can determine which format and product best fit your style.

	LCD size	Optical zoom; Digital zoom	Recording speeds	Memory card	Digital still resolution	Lines of resolution
What It Means	Diagonal length of viewing screen	Two methods for magnifying depth of field; optical zoom is better	The speeds a particular camcorder can utilize during recording	Compatible flash card types (cards not included unless noted)	The number of megapixels the camcorder can capture in still images	Number of lines of horizontal resolution; the higher the number, the greater the detail
MiniDV						
	Sony DCR-HC62 MiniDV Handycam MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 8718694	2.7 inches	25X; 2,000X	SP LP	Memory Stick PRO Duo	1MP 520
Flash Drive						
	JVC GZ-MS100 MSRP: \$349* SKU 8830722	2.7 inches	35X; 800X	ULTRA FINE FINE NORM ECO	SD/SDHC	0.3MP N/A
DVD						
	Canon FS100 MSRP: \$399* SKU 8732598	2.7 inches	37X; 2,000X	XP SP LP	SD/SDHC	0.8MP N/A
High Definition Hard Drive						
	Samsung SC-HMX10 MSRP: \$799* SKU 8566866	2.7 inches	10X; 100X	ULTRA FINE FINE NORM ECO	MMC/SD	0.3MP 520
	Panasonic HDC-HS9 MSRP: \$999.95* SKU 8696627	2.7 inches	10X; 700X	HA HG HX HE	SD/SDHC	1.6MP 1,080
MiniDV						
	JVC GZ-HD6 MSRP: \$1,399.99* SKU 8696645	2.8 inches	10X; 200X	FHD SP LP 1440CBR	microSD/microSDHC	2MP 1,080
	Canon VIXIA HV30 MSRP: \$999* SKU 8714974	2.7 inches	10X; 200X	SP LP	miniSD	3.1MP N/A

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.



These Boxes Can Do More Than Record Programs

You've heard the argument, and maybe you've even made it yourself. VCRs have been around for decades now, so what's so special about DVRs? Well, everything. They let you record, pause, and rewind live TV, of course. And they zap through commercials in shows you've recorded with lightning speed, but those are glorified VCR chores. If you really want to know what DVRs can do, read on.

Video Management

Forget about the days of labeling and storing a slew of video tapes. DVRs store video on an internal hard drive—just like the one your computer uses—letting them record anywhere from dozens to hundreds of hours of content, depending on the capacity of the drive and the type of video being recorded. Better still, everything you record is automatically labeled using data from the DVR's built-in programming guide, making it easy to find, sort, and play back all of your favorite shows.

The guides also make it easy to find shows that are interesting and flag them for automatic recording. Most DVRs also incorporate a "season pass" feature that lets you record every episode of an entire series, eliminating the chore of setting up manual recordings each week. It's all so easy that everyone in the family can do it and with no chance you'll record over each other's picks.

Record & Watch

Most DVRs let you play a show you've already recorded as you're recording a live show. Many also come with two television tuners, meaning you can record two shows at once even if they come on at the same time—all while watching a show you recorded last week. This is convenient, for example, if your favorite local and national news shows are on at the same time, and the kids want to watch something they recorded earlier as you're getting dinner ready.

High-Definition Recordings

Many of the latest DVRs can record both standard-definition and HD programs. HD video requires much more storage space than standard-definition video, so you may see two maximum recording times listed in the product's specifications. HD output from the DVR also requires that you

use the proper cables, so be sure to check the "The Right Connection" chart for details.

Surround-Sound Output

An increasing number of shows are broadcast with 5.1-channel surround-sound audio, which most DVRs can record and play back. 5.1-channel audio is set up for common home-theater setups that have three speakers in the front and two in the rear, along with a dedicated subwoofer to produce low bass tones. As with HD video, you need special cables to output the 5.1 audio signal from the DVR, so consult the "The Right Connection" chart for tips.

Networking

DVRs are actually rudimentary computers, and most have networking hardware (or can be used with external networking hardware) to share multimedia content with a networked PC. This is nice because it lets you do things such as view high-resolution pictures on your HDTV that are stored on your PC, set up a playlist for a party on the computer and then play the music over your home-theater setup, or stream home movies directly to your TV without having to record DVDs.

Internet Extras

Network access for a DVR also means that many of them can download content from the Internet. Some have full-blown Web browsers, letting you access any Web site you want to, but most often the feature lets you tap into streaming audio or video feeds so you can access the latest movies or tune into Internet radio

Why Lease When You Can Buy?

Most cable and satellite providers offer leased DVR equipment, but you can also buy a standalone DVR.

The advantage of buying is access to better hardware and superior programming guides. Standalone DVRs tend to come with the best interfaces and often have a host of features (such as expandability) that aren't supported by leased DVR hardware. If you tend to switch programming providers or think you may switch in the future, buying also guarantees that your hardware will work no matter what provider you use.

stations, which is perfect if you want to relax without having to prep a playlist in another room.

But Wait, There's More

Now that you know the DVR basics, there are a lot of other useful features to look for while shopping or reading the other articles in this section. For example, if your cable company provides access to CableCARDs, you can use them with certain DVRs to eliminate your cable box and streamline your home-theater setup. Other DVRs have ports on the back that let you attach an external hard drive to increase recording capacity, letting everyone in the family record his or her favorites without running out of space. No matter what kind of DVR you use, you'll never go back to the VCR days. 

BY TRACY BAKER

The Right Connection

Getting the best A/V quality from your DVR requires using the proper cables. Use this chart to determine which connection is best for your home-theater setup:

	Video Cables						Audio Cables		
	Composite (RCA)	S-Video	Component	VGA	DVI	HDMI	Composite (Stereo)	TOSLINK (Optical)	Digital Coax
Standard-Definition Video	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
High-Definition Video			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
2-channel Stereo Audio						Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.1+ Channel Surround-Sound Audio						Yes		Yes	Yes



Top 5 Things To Know Before Buying A DVR

If you think your only option when it comes to DVRs is to rent one from your satellite or cable company, think again; you can buy one outright from a CE retail store and avoid the monthly fees. Here's what you need to know.

1 Storage capacity. One DVR spec—the maximum hours of content its hard drive holds—is usually easy to find on the box or sales tag. But think of a VCR for a moment. Depending on the recording settings, a standard T-120 VHS tape will hold two, four, or maybe even six hours of material, but as the hours go up, the quality goes down. DVRs usually operate by a similar principle, using selectable levels of video compression to squeeze more onto the drive. For a better sense of the drive's capacity, look for the hours it will hold at the highest quality. If you're looking for an HDTV-compatible DVR, remember that high-definition programming requires around 10GB per hour, which can quickly fill a drive.

2 Connectivity. You'll want to give your recordings the best connection and signal path possible. Currently, the highest-quality (and ostensibly most convenient) connection is HDMI, which carries digital video and audio in a single cable. Of course, you can only use it if your TV (and home-theater receiver, if applicable) has an HDMI input. Still, if your current TV doesn't have it, your next TV is almost sure to. In the meantime, you should be able to use the DVR with another type of connection, such as component video.

3 Programmability. Most DVRs use a built-in electronic programming guide so you can find and select shows you want to record. However, some DVRs require a small monthly subscription fee to use its program guide service. If you opt for a DVR that has a monthly fee, you'll benefit from a continuously updated TV schedule and receive DVR firmware updates. The program guide found in other units is more basic, but it's free and a big leap beyond a VCR.

4 Ready to transfer and burn. DVRs are no longer limited to use with televisions—now they can be hooked up to your computer. Look for a DVR that has the ability to transfer data to PCs, and you'll be able to offload DVR content to your computer's hard drive. Not only will transfers from your DVR to computer help free up your DVR's hard drive space, but you can also watch your recordings wherever you take your PC. After you've moved content to a PC, some DVRs double as a DVD burner, too.

5 Renting. Many cable and satellite providers offer their own DVRs for rent. They're fairly basic, but if you're happy with the feature set, they can be quite economical. For example, an HD set-top converter box can run approximately \$5 per month, but a combined converter/DVR, with dual tuners, can cost around \$9.95 per month. For an extra monthly \$4.95, you can record in high-def while waiting for retail HD DVRs to become more plentiful and come down in price. **FG**

BY BRIAN HODGE



A DVR Dilemma

Is It Better To Buy Or Lease?

One important question to ask when shopping for a DVR is this: Do I buy or lease? Thanks to TiVo, satellite TV providers, cable companies, and CE manufacturers, you have a choice. Your options include everything from a low-cost add-on to your monthly digital cable TV subscription to buying an HD (high-definition) DVD player/recorder with a hard drive.

DVRs let you record a program while watching one you've already recorded. Features vary, of course, but here are some key functions to look for in a DVR or DVR service: an on-screen EPG (electronic program guide), parental controls, sophisticated search tools, scheduling recordings via the Web, and recording an entire season's worth of shows with one command.

One of the best features of a DVR is being able to pause, rewind, and in some cases fast-forward programming. Think of how nice it will be to fast-forward through commercials to watch the funny antics in an episode of "The Office." If you miss the beginning of an episode being recorded, you can rewind to catch the beginning while recording the rest.

If you'd like to get comfortable using a DVR before you buy one, then leasing is probably a wise choice. You can go this route whether you have digital cable or satellite TV.

Digital cable. You may get a DVR when you upgrade your digital cable service. Though terms depend on your cable provider, this is a low-cost option in many markets. Some cable companies lease a DVR for additional monthly fees, and they usually replace a digital TV set-top box. Check with your cable company

about any additional fees, such as installation. You may be able to pick up a DVR set-top box at your local cable office and hook it up yourself, thereby saving any installation charges.

Satellite TV. Satellite companies typically offer subscribers a free upgrade to a DVR for an additional monthly fee.

TiVo. Since its debut in 1999, TiVo (www.tivo.com) has continued to change its subscription packages and upgrade its DVRs. It offers dual-tuner DVRs that let you record two programs at once, with certain restrictions, as well as HD DVRs. (See page 27 for more information on TiVo's HD DVR.) You can hook up a TiVo box to a TV receiving programming via an antenna, cable, digital cable, or satellite, and TiVo DVRs usually work with a broadband connection, although you may need to hook up to a phone line during the initial setup.

Buy Your Own DVR

Instead of leasing, you may buy a DVR to obtain extra features and eliminate monthly fees. Combo units record programs, burn DVDs, and let you watch programs from the beginning, even as you're recording them. Some have an HDMI connection, so you can record and view HD programs on your HDTV.

As you mull over your options, head to your local consumer-electronics store to get a hands-on demonstration. And ask plenty of questions about how your DVRs will work with your home-entertainment system. **FG**

BY RACHEL DEROWITSCH



Not Your Typical DVR

You Can Do More Than Record With A Media Center PC

With the last VCR sunk in the tar pit of obsolescence, the component of choice for recording TV programming is now the DVR, as either a standalone unit or built into a cable or satellite receiver.

However, with home computers relatively easy to integrate into home-theater setups, there's an alternative to the standard DVR: a media center PC.

Like a DVR, a media center PC can record and store TV programs. Because it's less specialized, however, it retains the flexibility of a home computer, so you can also enjoy your collections of MP3s, photos, and video downloads; use it for gaming; play DVDs and CDs; and burn them, as well. Connect it to your home network, and you can stream Internet content, surf the Web, and catch up on email.

But is a media center PC the right option for you? It likely is if you're a fan of consolidation and will use the additional features.

The main factor to consider is how you receive your television signal. A media center PC should not have any problem with either

over-the-air or basic cable, even if they're HD. If you get programming such as encrypted premium channels or an HD service tier, you may not be able to record them directly, although some media center PCs have a CableCARD slot for improved cable compatibility. Consult your service provider to find out your options.

It's definitely worth checking into. A media center PC can add a wealth of new choices to your home-entertainment center. **FG**

BY BRIAN HODGE

Turn Your PC Into A Media Center PC

Although you can buy a media PC already decked out for the family room, you may find it more economical to go the do-it-yourself route—especially if you have a spare computer of fairly recent vintage. You'll need to add or upgrade whatever components the computer requires to integrate it into your home-theater system:

Sound card. The card has to be compatible with the inputs in your home theater; ideally, the card supports a digital coaxial or optical line out to carry surround sound.

TV tuner. Whether you have a PCI card or an external USB box, the tuner pipes a TV signal into the PC.

Storage capacity. Don't skimp here. A 400GB drive is common in preconfigured systems; if you'll be recording HDTV, a drive with a full terabyte won't be overkill.

Media center software. You'll use the software to control recording, playback, and browsing. Microsoft's Windows Media Center isn't the only game in town, but it may be the most ubiquitous. Originally, you could get it only on Windows XP Media Center Edition PCs. Now the latest version of Windows Media Center is included with Vista Home Premium and Ultimate editions.



Do You Need An HD DVR?

How To Tell If Your DVR Can Handle High-Def

You buy a nice HDTV, and your stock as an entertainer goes through the roof. Suddenly, all of your friends want to come over so you can all watch your favorite shows together on the big screen, and you think, "Why not?" You plan a party, record a few programs from your HD cable feed to your DVR, and send the invites. Everyone shows up, you press Play, and jaws drop—not because everyone's blown away by your HDTV's picture, but because they're stunned that you just paid so much to get worse video quality than they see on their standard-definition TVs back home.

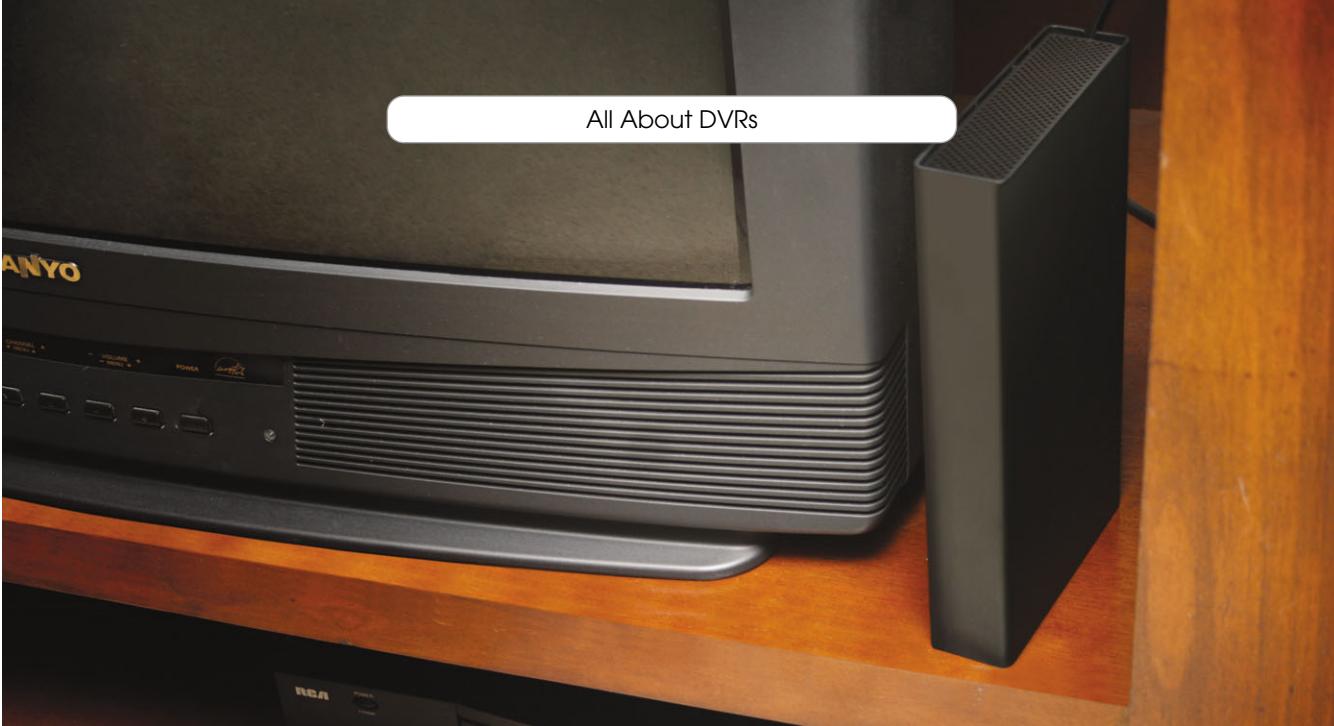
What went wrong? You probably recorded everything using a standard-def DVR instead of an HD DVR. HD video has several times more detail than does standard-definition video, which is why it looks so stunning even on large HDTVs, but all of that extra information comes at a price. HD video requires several times more storage space than does standard-definition video of the same length, and getting that HD video to your HDTV requires special video outputs.

HD DVRs have the extra storage capacity and advanced video outputs you need to record and output HD shows from your cable or satellite provider in all their glory. When shopping for

an HD DVR, pay close attention to the number of hours they claim to record because HD recording times are often a fraction of the standard-def recording times. Look for models with large hard drives—500GB or larger is ideal—and buy only a unit that has video outputs that are compatible with the video inputs on your HDTV. HDMI or DVI connections are ideal, although component video will also carry an HD signal. Avoid S-Video and composite connections whenever possible, as they only carry standard-def video signals, even if the content stored on the HD DVR was recorded in HD.

Devices with two tuners, which let you record two shows at once, are convenient. Another nice option is a CableCARD slot; when you insert a CableCARD from your cable TV provider into the back of the HD DVR, you can use the HD DVR as your cable box. Also, look for HD DVRs that have USB 2.0, FireWire, or other interfaces that let you connect external storage devices to extend the recording time beyond that available out of the box. This lets you buy an inexpensive HD DVR and then spend more if you find yourself recording more than you thought you would. Considering the incredible quality of a HD recording vs. that of a standard-def recording, that's a distinct possibility, and your partygoers will thank you. **FG**

BY TRACY BAKER



Don't Miss A Scene

Extras For Your DVR

DVRs have become that "can't-live-without-it" component. Admit it: If you own a DVR, you've had to endure the anticipation of knowing your favorite show is simply waiting for you to press Play. Not only have you dedicated your free time to multiple television programs, but you're now looking for even more ways to store, save, and watch the latest episodes of "30 Rock." Fortunately, there are numerous accessories available to enhance your DVR experience. Whether you prefer TV show marathons or a movie on your portable DVD player, you can augment your DVR with devices designed to suit your particular lifestyle. We'll take a look at a few DVR extras that should help you decide what accessory is most compatible with the way you enjoy your TV programming.

The Episode Devotee

If you record numerous programs, you may have noticed that the DVR's hard drive reaches its capacity from time to time. As a last resort, you decide to delete your least favorite reruns, but you wish you could archive them for that rainy day episode marathon. Instead of painfully pushing the Erase button, you can invest in a DVR expander. Expanders connect to your DVR via an eSATA interface, which provides quick transfer speeds for external hard drives. Make sure your DVR supports eSATA devices before you buy an accessory such as an expander. Some expanders can store up to 80 hours of HDTV and 300 hours of standard-definition TV.

In terms of space, an expander will add at least a few hundred gigabytes of storage.

The Multitasker

A universal remote control is an ideal device for simplifying the management of a DVR within a home-entertainment system. Modern universal remotes can control everything from a basic TV to home-theater lighting. If you want to control a range of devices, choose a universal remote that supports at least 10 components. Some manufacturers are even designing remotes especially for TiVo devices and programming. DVR fanatics will also appreciate universal remotes that offer a one-touch feature: With a single tap of the screen, instead of pushing multiple buttons to turn on your DVR, you can program the remote to activate a specific function.

The Media Enthusiast

Portable media players are convenient for anyone who likes on-the-go entertainment. Unfortunately, DVRs aren't so mobile. To bridge the gap between your DVR and media player, use an MP3 player or multimedia dock station that lets you record video from a selected source, such as a TV, and transfer it to your portable media player. If you prefer to take your reality game shows and sporting events on the road, this type of device is ideal for transporting a sizable media library. **FG**

BY JOANNA SAFFORD



Think Ahead

How To Buy A PC That Will Last

To buy a PC that'll last, consider what you'll use the PC for now and in the future. Newlywed shutterbugs may get by with 100GB of hard drive space and a couple USB ports, but later, that once-ideal PC will stumble under the desire to record a new baby's various firsts in glorious HD. Read on to make sure your new PC lasts for years to come.

Get Choosy With Your Components

Buy the fastest processor you can afford. Opt for a dual- or quad-core processor. In

most cases, you can upgrade processors, but it's expensive. The Velocity Micro ProMagix E8500 Desktop (\$1,499.99; www.velocitymicro.com) features a dual-core processor, but you can upgrade to an Intel quad-core processor later.

If you'll be doing any photo manipulating, video editing, or media encoding in the foreseeable future, get a PC with free memory slots. Many PCs have four slots, but inexpensive models may have just two. DDR3 is the latest memory format, but DDR2 is also current; both are good options. The Velocity Micro ProMagix Q6600 Desktop (\$1,999.99)

includes 2GB of system memory but supports up to 8GB. Also, keep in mind that you'll need Windows Vista 64-bit to utilize 4GB or more.

Get as much hard drive storage as you can afford, but also make sure there are one or more spare SATA (Serial Advanced Technology Attachment) or EIDE (Enhanced Integrated Drive Electronics) ports and room in the case for adding new hard drives. External hard drives are a viable option, but make sure you get a PC with eSATA (external Serial ATA) ports if speed is important to you.

Aside from gaming, the latest graphics cards from ATI and Nvidia also handle the video decoding operations that are necessary to play HD content on a PC. Only settle for integrated graphics if you do little besides surf the 'Net. If you're serious about gaming, make sure the PC has two or more PCI-E (Peripheral Component Interconnect Express) x16 slots and support for multiple graphics cards.

Avoid ultra compacts if you want the PC to meet your needs for years to come; these PCs commonly use proprietary components, which are difficult to upgrade.

Eye On Tomorrow

Nothing in computers is future-proof, but if you buy a PC you can readily upgrade, you can swap parts as your needs evolve. We call that future-resistant. **fc**

BY ANDREW LEIBMAN

What You Need

Consider the tasks you perform and consult this chart to determine the components worth splurging on.

If You Use A PC To . . .

- Browse the Web
- Organize and store photos
- Store and manage music
- Capture and edit home movies
- Record TV shows
- Play games

Buy A PC With . . .

- Integrated graphics
- Lots of storage
- Lots of storage and a multicore processor
- Lots of storage, multicore processor, and lots of RAM
- Lots of storage, multicore processor, and a TV tuner
- Lots of storage, multicore processor, lots of RAM, and a current-gen graphics card

Keeping It Clean

Overall Computer Maintenance



In the past, keeping your computer in shape required dozens of utilities, a lot of time, and plenty of expertise. Modern versions of Windows, especially Vista, make it easy to keep a PC running smoothly, using only a few tools and a little bit of know-how. Here's an overview of the three main methods even novices can use to maintain peak performance (not to mention maximum security).

Tip 1: Defragment

The hard drive stores files using small blocks of data called clusters. Ideally, all of the clusters associated with a file or program are located close to one another on the hard drive so they can all be accessed quickly. Often, a file's or program's clusters scatter over the drive's surface, which

makes it more difficult for the drive to read all of the pieces of the files or programs when accessing them.

This process of scattering files is called fragmentation, but you can use a defragmentation utility (such as the one that comes with Windows) to reunite the files and apps and give your PC a speed boost. We recommend defragmenting at least once a month.

Tip 2: Install Antivirus, Antispyware & Firewall Software

No OS is immune to viruses or spyware, which can be used for everything from gathering your personal information to destroying the data stored on your PC. Be sure the antivirus product you install supports automatic updates and scans

all files you download from the Internet (including email). Never install more than one antivirus program on the same PC or they may cause instability or prevent Windows from running.

You can run multiple antispyware products on the same PC, and we recommend using at least two. One should focus on locking down known security holes and passively protecting the system, while the other should focus on scanning for threats and preventing spyware from entering via a Web browser.

Finally, don't forget a firewall. These products monitor your Internet connection to make sure everything coming to or leaving from the PC was specifically authorized by you. Firewalls can stop intruders from the outside from breaking into your network and also prevent viruses or spyware that found their way onto your computer from transmitting personal information to people on the other side of the connection.

When shopping for these types of software, beware of free products that claim to do the same things commercial products do. Some free alternatives live up to their claims, but many require manual updates, expert-level knowledge for configuration, or other things that you don't have to worry about when you subscribe to or buy commercial software.

Tip 3: Keep The Dust Away

Computer hardware runs hot, and it takes a small army of fans to pull cool outside air into the case while expelling hot air from the case. Dust, pet hair, and other detritus buildup in the fan filters or the fans themselves can impede this airflow, causing overheating, which is potentially damaging to components. Every few months, you should remove the computer's case and use a can of compressed air to thoroughly clean inside. 

BY TRACY BAKER

Leave It To The PC Pros

Best Buy's



Can Get It Done

Today's computers can handle your entertainment, financial, shopping, communication, and business needs like never before. But from the moment you power on your new PC, you'll have to fight spyware, viruses, and online predators; troubleshoot and repair error messages; configure new and old hardware and software; and regularly install updates and patches. Aren't computers great?

Send In The Geeks

Like g-men with pocket protectors, the agents of the Geek Squad (www.bestbuy.com/geeksquad) are there to handle all of your PC setup, repair, and installation needs.

New PC setup and security. The Geek Squad agents can streamline your system with over 100 in-depth tweaks, install and configure security software and other software updates, get rid of unnecessary software that comes preloaded on

your computer, create a restore CD, and even offer secure online storage.

Repairs and upgrades. The Squad team can also unfreeze locked systems, recover data from crashes, and improve poor performance. The Geek Squad's basic service fixes software, removes viruses and spyware, and cleans your PC. You can upgrade to get security and privacy software installed and configured, and you can hire the Geek Squad to upgrade your operating system.

Wireless networking. If you want to communicate more efficiently among multiple computers, the Geek Squad can help you accomplish that, as well as with setting up a PC network in your home; connecting two network-capable devices (such as gaming consoles,

desktop and laptop computers, print servers, and more); and even with securing your wireless network.

Data protection. If you have data you just can't lose (and we all do), the Geek Squad offers both a one-time backup service and an automated backup service. The squad can clean and remove sensitive files from a hard drive you're planning to sell or discard.

Who You Gonna Call?

Once you've made the decision to buy a new PC, you aren't on your own to keep it working. Just call your friendly local Geek.

BY ANDREW LEIBMAN

Price Breakdown

To get your PC in tip-top shape, the Geek Squad offers a range of services that are guaranteed to help you get the most out of your computer.

- Basic Security: \$129 (in-store); \$229 (in-home)
- Advanced Security: \$149 (in-store); \$249 (in-home)
- Premium Security: \$179 (in-store); \$299 (in-home)
- Diagnostic and Repair: \$199 (in-store); \$349 (in-home)
- Advanced Diagnostic, Repair, and Prevention: \$299 (in-store); \$449 (in-home)
- Operating System Install: \$129 (in-store); \$249 (in-home)
- Whole Home Network Installation: \$199 (in-home)
- Network Consultation: \$49 (in-home)
- Wireless Security Setup: \$59 (in-home)
- One-Time Data Backup/Transfer: \$99 (in-store); \$229 (in-home)
- Automated Data Backup: \$129 (in-store); \$199 (in-home)
- Clean and Remove: \$59 (in-store)

Available Services

If it involves your computer, the Geek Squad can help. The following is a list of the computer services your local Geek Squad agents can sort out. And they even make house calls.

- Set up and secure your computer
- Perform repairs and upgrades
- Protect and save your data
- A la carte services

Essential Things To Know

Computers

CD/DVD/BD Drives & Burners

What is a “burner”?

ANSWER: Optical drives that can write data to blank CDs, DVDs, and/or BDs (Blu-ray Discs) are called burners because they each use a laser to alter a dye sealed inside a recordable or rewriteable disc.

What's the difference between “recordable” and “rewriteable” discs?

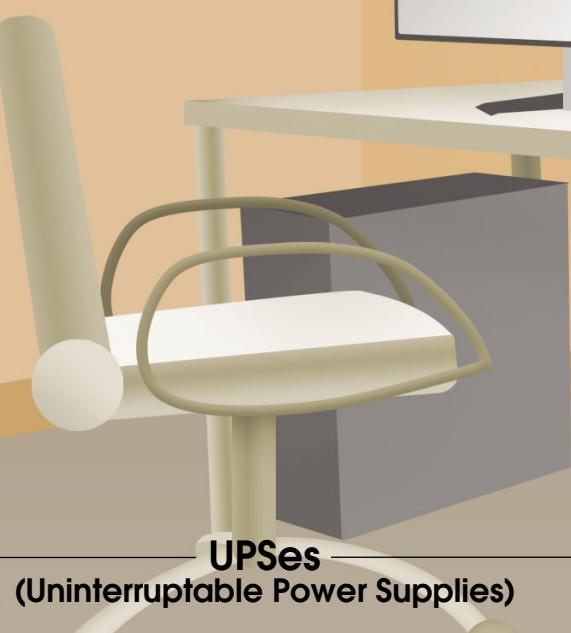
ANSWER: Generally, write-once discs (CD-R, DVD-R, DVD+R, BD-R) are called recordable discs. Erasable, reusable discs (CD-RW, DVD-RW, DVD+RW, BD-RE) are called rewriteable discs.

Does “write-once” mean that you can only record a disc a single time, even if it’s not full?

ANSWER: You can add data to a partially full CD-R, DVD-R, DVD+R, or BD-R if you enabled the multisession setting in your burning software.

Can I watch BD movies on my PC even if my monitor doesn't support HDCP?

ANSWER: You can watch BD movies on a legacy VGA monitor without losing picture quality, but if movie studios enable BD's Image Constraint Token feature, non-HDCP monitors will receive lower-resolution video.



UPSes (Uninterruptable Power Supplies)

Why do I need a UPS?

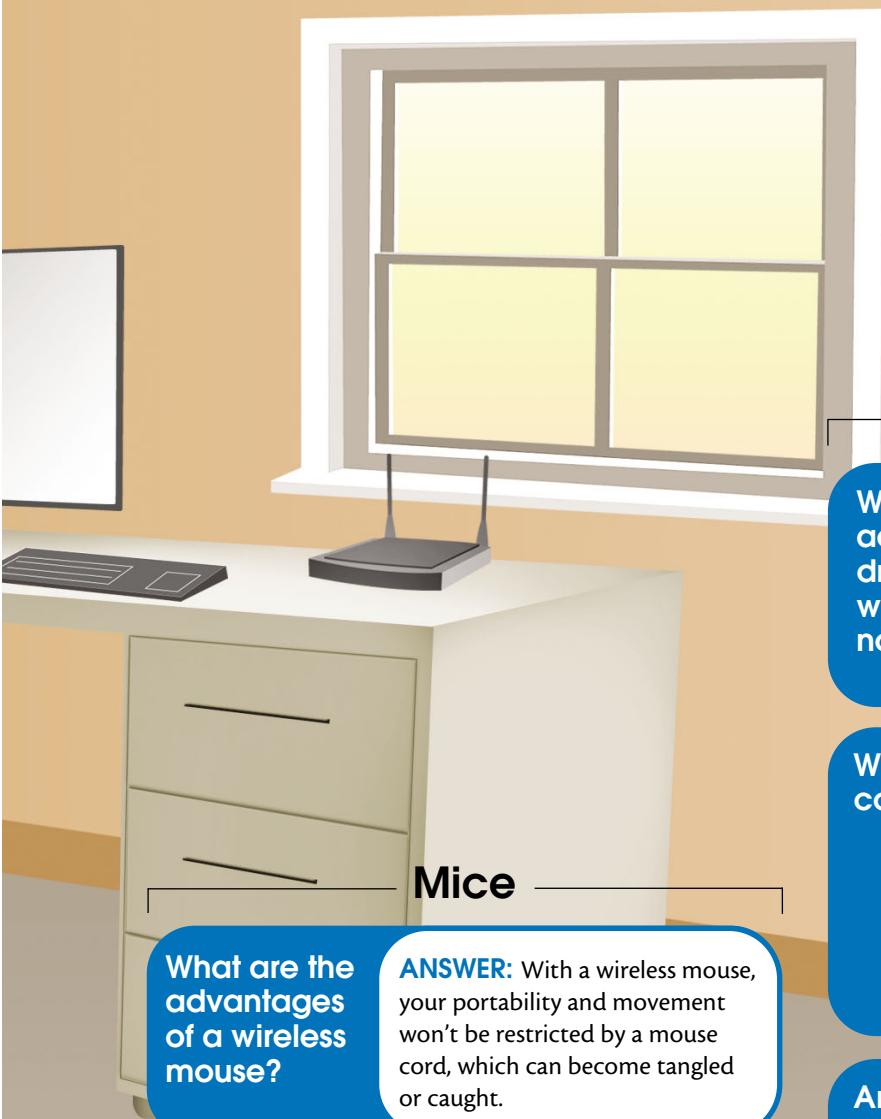
ANSWER: A UPS protects your computer by providing battery power after a power outage or electrical surge. This enables you to save your work and shut down your system safely.

What are standby and continuous UPSes?

ANSWER: Suitable for home use, a standby UPS uses utility power under normal circumstances, but when that power is interrupted, it will use a backup battery. A continuous UPS will run off constant battery power.

How long does a UPS battery last?

ANSWER: Depending on how many devices you have connected to the UPS, battery power can last approximately 15 minutes or longer. There are UPSes built to sustain power for longer amounts of time.



Mice

What are the advantages of a wireless mouse?

ANSWER: With a wireless mouse, your portability and movement won't be restricted by a mouse cord, which can become tangled or caught.

How does a wireless mouse work?

ANSWER: Wireless mice use RF technology, which translates your mouse movements into radio signals. These signals are sent to a receiver connected to your computer.

What is a trackball mouse?

ANSWER: A trackball mouse looks like an upside-down mouse, and it has an external ball that sits in a socket. Your cursor is moved according to the trackball movement you make with your thumb or finger.

What is a USB mouse?

ANSWER: A USB mouse has a USB cord connection. This type of mouse is useful because it is hot-swappable, which means you can plug and unplug your mouse without affecting your PC.

Notebook Computers

What are the advantages/ drawbacks to widescreen notebooks?

ANSWER: Widescreens are ideal for spreadsheet, gaming, and graphics applications and for watching DVDs. However, the screen size adds to the cost and weight of the notebook.

What is 3G connectivity?

ANSWER: Integrated 3G (third-generation) wireless connectivity is a feature common in today's notebooks. It gives users high-speed (2Mbps or more), broadband connectivity and farther-reaching roaming capabilities than previous wireless technologies.

Are there drawbacks to buying an ultra-compact notebook?

ANSWER: Many ultra-compact notebooks lack an optical drive, so you'd have to connect one to an available USB port. They also tend to be more expensive than bulkier models with comparable features.

What does an HDMI-enabled notebook let me do?

ANSWER: It lets you connect your notebook to another HDMI-enabled device, such as an HDTV, and play content—DVDs, digital image slideshows, PowerPoint presentations—from your notebook on the TV.

What kind of card do I need to connect my notebook to a network?

ANSWER: Get a wireless notebook card, such as one based on the 802.11n wireless standard, that's compatible with your notebook. The 802.11n standard carries data at about 300Mbps.

Notebooks

5 Must-Have Accessories

A laptop is a big investment, and now that you've taken the plunge, it's time to decide what you need to go along with your shiny new purchase. We've rounded up five of our favorite accessories that every laptop owner should add to her shopping list. **FG**

BY JOY MARTIN

1 Laptops aren't cheap, so you'll want to protect yours. After splurging on a laptop, the first thing you need to consider is how you're going to protect it. You bought a laptop for its portability, so it's important to buy a good case that can protect it and keep it mobile. Cases are available in a multitude of styles and colors, so you're sure to find one that meets your needs. We especially like laptop bags with wheels and telescoping handles because they're so handy when you are traveling. Look for a bag that is built for your screen size and has plenty of zippered pockets to store your notebook accessories and paperwork.



2 A cordless mouse is easier to work with than a pointing stick. Although laptops are well-suited for working on the go, the pointing stick (that little nub in the middle of the keyboard that lets you navigate the pointer) and/or touchpad that replace your desktop's mouse can be hard to manipulate. If you prefer a mouse, look for a wired mouse that plugs into your USB port or even a cordless mouse. The sleek design makes cordless mice easy to transport, and the USB receivers are small enough to leave plugged in, so your mouse is ready when you need it.



3 Power adapters for laptops will offer your notebook PC some protection from spikes in power. You didn't have to think twice before plugging your desktop PC into a power conditioner or surge protector. But have you taken the same precautions with your laptop? Surge protectors ensure that the electrical current running to the device(s) attached to it doesn't exceed acceptable levels. A sudden spike in electricity can destroy a laptop, so taking the time to plug in to one every time is worth the few seconds it takes. Surge protectors designed specifically for laptops, such as the Kensington Notebook Power Adapter (\$139.99; us.kensington.com), are compact, making them easy to pack away in your laptop bag.



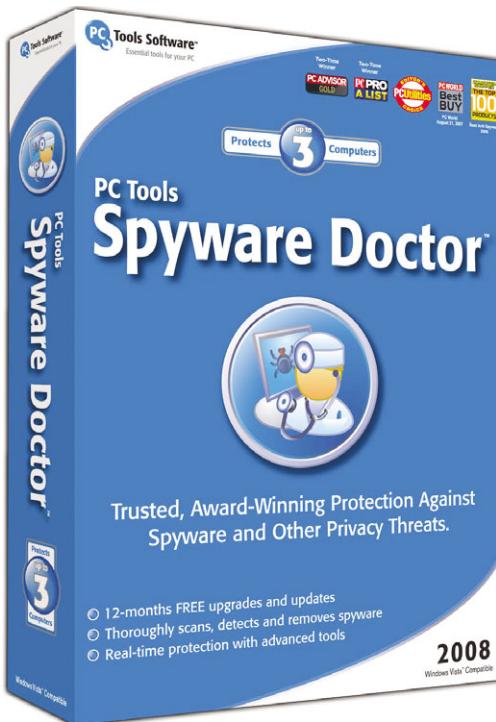
4 Portable USB hubs let you connect a few extra peripherals while you're out of the office. USB ports let you connect all sorts of electronic goodies to your computer, but what if you have more gadgets than ports? A USB hub, such as Dynex's 4-Port USB 2.0 Hub (\$18.99; www.bestbuy.com), is an affordable way to ensure you can connect all of your peripherals. In addition to giving you more ports, cords to items such as a digital camera or music player can be left plugged in on your desk, so they are ready to go next time you use your laptop.



5 An extra battery lets you keep working on the road when you're far away from your recharger. We love laptops for their portability—they let us work without being tethered to a desk. But that flexibility is limited to how long the battery holds a charge. Having an extra battery on hand that's powered and ready to go gives you the ability to work longer, without having to find an outlet. Batteries vary from laptop to laptop, but with your model number in hand, you can find a replacement for any brand.



Internet Security & Monitoring Protection You Can Trust



PC Tools Spyware Doctor

MSRP: \$29.95

SKU: 8520326

www.pctools.com

Quick Overview

Security software is an absolute necessity for anyone who's on the Internet. Malicious programs such as spyware, adware, and viruses put your computer and your identity at risk every day. By using PC Tools Spyware Doctor, you can be confident that you have the most advanced threat protection, recommended by computer and security experts globally and trusted by millions of users every day.

Perfect For

Spyware Doctor is for those who want to keep their computer free of malware with an easy-to-use interface and award-winning technology.

Outstanding Benefits

- Award-winning software recommended by experts worldwide
- Prevents malicious programs from stealing personal information, degrading system performance, and damaging your important files
- Frequent automatic updates ensure your protection is up-to-date
- Built-in behavioral technology automatically keeps you safe from the newest online threats
- OnGuard real-time protection blocks threats before they harm your PC
- Easy to install and use with immediate automatic protection
- Free 24/7 phone support for all customers

Coolest Feature

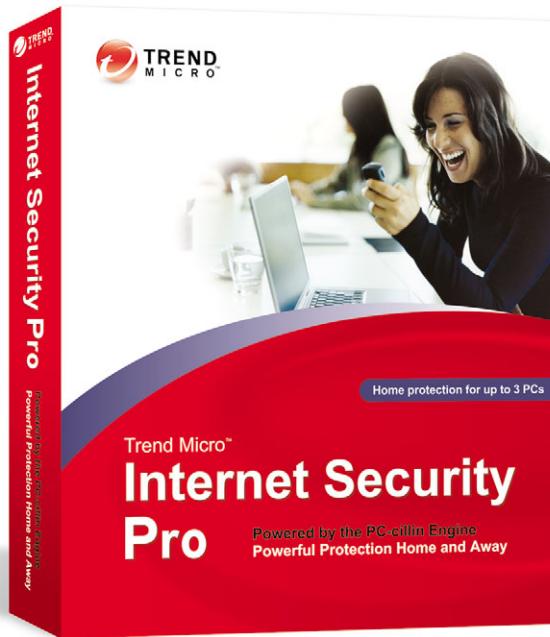
Currently recognized by industry experts as the best product available to remove spyware and keep it off your system, while still being one of the easiest to use.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com



Internet Security & Monitoring

Unleash Your Internet Potential



Quick Overview

Whether you are at home or on the go, Trend Micro Internet Security Pro safeguards your online transactions, identity, and irreplaceable files with the most comprehensive protection available. Get all the benefits of our proven Internet security plus enhanced identity-theft protection, Wi-Fi validation, data-theft protection, and system recovery.

Perfect For

This product is perfect for computer users who browse Web pages; send and receive email; exchange instant messages; shop and bank online; or share pictures, songs, and files.

Outstanding Benefits

- Home Protection for up to three PCs
- With features optimized for identity-theft protection; Wi-Fi validation; and data-theft protection; you can confidently email, shop, bank, or share photos online no matter where you are; knowing your privacy and data are secure
- Safely access the Internet from remote locations
- Free phone, chat, and online technical support (North America)
- Automatic and continuous updates ensure up-to-date protection

Coolest Feature

Keystroke Encryption: Prevent cybercriminals from spying on your passwords, account numbers, and other personal information through encryption.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse



Photo & Imaging Easy, Fun, Professional!



Corel® Paint Shop Pro® Photo X2

MSRP: \$99.99

SKU: 8550258

www.corel.com

Quick Overview

Create, edit, enhance, and process photos like a pro with Paint Shop Pro Photo X2. Corel combines ease of use that lets you be productive right from the start with depth of functionality that lets you grow as your skills improve.

Perfect For

Everyone from camera owners and photo hobbyists to professional photographers.

Outstanding Benefits

- Get started right away with the Learning Center, an on-screen list of things to do with easy explanations of each key feature
- Add multiple layers, text, embellishments, and more for professional-looking scrapbook pages
- Saves you time by automatically downloading photos and enabling you to easily edit in the Express Lab
- Make good photos great: rotate, straighten, 1-click photo fix, crop, and remove red-eye until each image looks spectacular
- Easily remove unwanted objects from your photos

Coolest Feature

Remove blemishes, whiten teeth, and even look thinner, all in a few simple clicks with the unique **Makeover Tools**. Professional-grade retouching has never been easier!

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse®

Wireless USB

Wirelessly Connect To USB Devices



Quick Overview

Free yourself from USB cables and allow your PC to wirelessly communicate with USB-connected peripherals with IOGEAR's USB-IF certified Wireless USB Hub solution. Reduce cable clutter and let notebook users roam up to 30 feet away from the paired USB adapter included in the kit. Say goodbye to desk clutter and hello to fast sharing and mobility.

Perfect For

The IOGEAR Wireless USB Hub & Adapter is perfect for laptop users who are tired of untangling cords and want to simplify their computing experience.

Outstanding Benefits

- Compatible with USB 1.1 and 2.0 devices and guarantees connectivity with all future Certified Wireless USB products
- Hub can be associated with up to three different laptops or PCs
- Certified Wireless USB technology allows file transfers at radio speeds of up to 480Mbps
- Ultrawideband spectrum improves speed up to 40 times faster than your wireless home/office network
- Low laptop power consumption
- Compatible with Windows Vista; requires Windows XP (SP2)

Coolest Feature

Multiple user switching allows for fast sharing and makes it simple to wirelessly stream audio, video, and other high-bandwidth data among various devices.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

Bluetooth® Adapter

Enable Bluetooth® On Your Computer



**IOGEAR Bluetooth 2.0
USB Micro Adapter**

MSRP: \$24.99

SKU: 8781348

www.iogear.com

Quick Overview

Enable Bluetooth connectivity on your computer! IOGEAR's new USB adapter delivers faster wireless data transfer speed and improved bandwidth and draws less power than ever before. Adding the IOGEAR Bluetooth 2.0 USB Micro Adapter to your desktop or notebook PC or Mac allows you to wirelessly share documents, music, and video at up to three times the speed of previous Bluetooth (1.1 or 1.2) devices.

Perfect For

This Bluetooth Class 2 adapter is easy to install and use and very portable, making it perfect for both home and mobile networking needs.

Outstanding Benefits

- Lets any computer with a USB port connect to Bluetooth devices
- Three times faster than Bluetooth 1.1 or 1.2 products; up to 3Mbps
- Wide wireless range; up to 30 feet
- Wirelessly communicates with Bluetooth-enabled computers, printers, PDAs, cell phones, headsets, and more
- Built-in security to assure the privacy of your communication-pairing, encryption, and authentication
- Compliant with Bluetooth 2.0 specifications; backward-compatible with Bluetooth 1.1 and 1.2
- No need to ever remove

Coolest Feature

A **fraction of the size of normal adapters**, this adapter can easily plug into your computer without blocking surrounding USB ports.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

Battery Back-up System

Protect Your Desktop & The Environment



**APC Back-UPS ES
750 VA**

MSRP: \$99.99

SKU: 8540322

www.apc.com

Quick Overview

The Back-UPS ES 750 VA is a powerful new UPS with "green" features designed to help minimize your environmental impact while still offering the world's most reliable power protection for computer systems and peripherals. Master/Controlled outlets shut off power to printers, scanners, and speakers when equipment is not in use. The BE750G proves it's possible to reduce electrical waste and still deliver up to five times more efficiency.

Perfect For

Those who are looking for an environmentally friendly method of protecting their computer.

Outstanding Benefits

- 10 surge-protected outlets, 5 outlets offer battery backup
- Master/Controlled outlets that conserve energy
- Included PowerChute® safe system shutdown software
- 750VA (450W) capacity with up to 70 minutes of battery back-up time for safe shutdown when the power is lost
- Full dateline protection
- Three-year warranty
- Battery replacement without tools
- Disconnected battery notification
- USB connectivity

Coolest Feature

The BE750G's "high efficiency" charger saves up to 80% of the power used by competitive solutions during normal operation.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com



LCD Monitor Play Wide, Play LG



Quick Overview

With Digital Fine Contrast technology that can produce a 10,000:1 dynamic contrast ratio, colors and images will look truer to nature on this LG Wide Monitor. Other features include a one-touch button for switching screen resolutions, photo effects that let you easily change on-screen image tones and colors, and a power button that will emit sound when you turn the monitor on.

Perfect For

Those who want a vivid, crystal-clear picture on a widescreen display to play games, watch movies, and more!

Outstanding Benefits

- Certified for Windows Vista™ to complement the new look of the innovative operating system
- Widescreen format allows you to see the whole picture
- Ultra-Fast 2ms response time keeps even the most intense action scenes crisper and clearer during gameplay and video playback
- FLATRON f-ENGINE™ adjusts the contrast and brightness independently of each other to produce amazing images
- Also available in 19- and 24-inch (diagonal) models

Coolest Feature

The DVI-D with HDCP input lets you directly connect a DVD player or other digital video device.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

Ultramobile PC

The Ultimate Mobile Internet Device



Asus Eee PC 4G XP Edition

MSRP: \$399

SKUs: 8625295 (pearl white)
 8781464 (galaxy black)
 8746734 (blush pink)

usa.asus.com

Quick Overview

Weighing in at only 2 pounds, the Asus Eee PC is an ultramobile PC that provides an easy-to-learn, easy-to-work, and easy-to-play computing experience, all in a small form factor.

Perfect For

The Asus Eee PC is ideal for young children who are becoming familiar with technology for the first time, business travelers looking for a compact mobile Internet device that will let them accomplish tasks, or anyone wanting an additional laptop at a budget-friendly price.

Outstanding Benefits

- Small PC that's easy to carry to and from school, work, or anywhere you travel
- Rapid startup time and intuitive interface allows you to get the information you need quickly and easily
- Automatic 802.11b/g detection allows quick Internet access
- With only a few clicks, share photos and videos on Flickr and YouTube
- Included parental filter prohibits youngsters from viewing inappropriate online material
- Power-efficient design provides longer operating time when you're on the go

Coolest Feature

At **half the size of regular notebooks** and with a shock-proof design, you can take the Eee PC anywhere you go with peace of mind.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse



Flash Memory Access Data On The Go



**Geek Squad 8GB USB
2.0 Micro Flash Drive**

MSRP: \$74.99

SKU: 8523528

www.bestbuy.com

Quick Overview

The Geek Squad 8GB USB 2.0 Flash Drive is a trusty travel companion for those who need to access their data on the go. Whether it's Word or PowerPoint documents, photos, music, or video files, this flash drive can handle a lot of data and supply it when you're in a hurry, thanks to its high-speed USB 2.0 connectivity.

Perfect For

Anyone who needs to carry plenty of data from point A to point B, such as students or business travelers, will find this 8GB compact flash drive a computing necessity.

Outstanding Benefits

- Small device measures only 2.25 inches long, with a retractable USB interface
- 8GB capacity to store your documents, photos, music, and video files
- Works with any USB 2.0 or USB 1.1 port
- Pre-installed CruzerSync, SignupShield password protection, and AVAST antivirus software
- SKYPE software allows you to make video phone calls from one PC to another (requires SKYPE service, which isn't included)
- LED indicator notifies you when the flash drive is in use

Coolest Feature

Included U3 Smart Technology software offers Mozilla Firefox, McAfee VirusScan for USB, OpenOffice.org, WeatherBug for U3, and Sudoku.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse®

Which Notebook Computer Is Best For You?

A notebook computer is a pretty big purchase for most people, and it's usually a bit overwhelming, too. This chart compares the features and specs from several models available at Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com).

	Operating system	Processor	Hard drive size; RAM	Screen size	Dimensions; Weight	Optical drives; Media card reader
What It Means	The software (usually Windows or Mac OS X) that controls your computer	Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better)	How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to	The diagonal measurement of the notebook's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the laptop weighs	Drives that can read and write discs; Slots that read media cards without a separate peripheral
 Asus Eee PC 4G-VPI001 MSRP: \$399* SKU 8746734	Linux	900MHz Intel Celeron M	4GB; 512MB DDR2	7 inches	1.3x8.9x6.3 inches; 2 pounds	N/A; Yes
 HP Pavilion dv2819nr MSRP: \$899.99* SKU 8782613	Windows Vista Ultimate	2GHz AMD Turion 64 X2	250GB; 3GB DDR2	14.1 inches	1.25x13.2x 9.3 inches; 5.25 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW; Yes
 Dell Inspiron 11420-117B MSRP: \$949.99* SKU 8790766	Windows Vista Home Premium	1.83GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Mobile	320GB; 3GB DDR2	14.1 inches	1.25x13.1x 9.6 inches; 5.4 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW; Yes
 Sony VGN-FZ430E/B MSRP: \$1,049.99* SKU 8784381	Windows Vista Home Premium	1.83GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Mobile	250GB; 3GB PC2-5300 DDR2	15.4 inches	1.4x14x10 inches; 5.9 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW; Yes
 Microsel IC2D1555025D3GVP MSRP: \$1,099.99* SKU 8844352	Windows Vista Home Premium	1.82GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Mobile	250GB; 3GB DDR2	15.4 inches	1.6x14x10.2 inches; 7 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW; Yes
 Acer Aspire AS8920-6048 MSRP: \$1,299.99* SKU 8854607	Windows Vista Home Premium	1.83GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Mobile	250GB; 3GB PC2-5300 DDR2 SDRAM	18.4 inches	1.7x17.4x 11.8 inches; 9 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/ Blu-ray Disc/ CD-RW; Yes
 Apple MacBook MB403LL/A MSRP: \$1,299.99* SKU 8703478	Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard	2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Mobile	160GB; 2GB PC2-5300 DDR2	13.3 inches	1.1x12.8x8.9 inches; 5 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW; No
 Toshiba Satellite X205-SLi5 MSRP: \$1,949.99* SKU 8780688	Windows Vista Home Premium	2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Mobile	320GB; 3GB PC2-5300 DDR2 SDRAM	17 inches	2.1x15.7x 11.3 inches; 9.4 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW; Yes

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Which Desktop PC Is Right For You?

When you shop for a desktop PC, you'll see lots of similar deals. The comparison chart below shows how subtle—yet important—the differences can be. If you can't find one of these on Best Buy's Web site (www.bestbuy.com), visit or call your local Best Buy store, and it should be available there.

	Processor	Hard drive size; RAM	Optical drives	Operating system	Graphics card	Ports
What It Means	Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better)	How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to	Drives that can read and write CD-Rs, DVD-RWs, or HD discs	The software (usually Windows or Mac OS X) that controls your computer	Controls the quality of your video and images	Sockets that give your computer access to different peripherals
 HP Pavilion a6400f MSRP: \$559.99* SKU 8773437	2.2GHz Intel Pentium Dual-Core	500GB; 3GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 3100	6 USB 2.0; 2 FireWire
 Dell Inspiron i530-103B MSRP: \$749.99* SKU 8775765	2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Quad	640GB; 3GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 3100	8 USB
 Gateway GT5678 MSRP: \$849.99* SKU 8775818	2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Quad	750GB; 4GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	ATI Radeon HD 2400XT	6 USB 2.0; 1 S-Video
 Gateway FX7026 MSRP: \$1,099.99* SKU 8772768	2.5GHz Intel Core 2 Quad	640GB; 4GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	Nvidia GeForce 8800 GT	8 USB 2.0; 2 FireWire; 1 S-Video
 Dell X720-106B MSRP: \$1,999.99* SKU 8808294	2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Quad	480GB; 2GB	DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	Nvidia GeForce 8800 GT	10 USB, 2 FireWire, 1 S-Video
 Velocity Micro ProMagix E8500 MSRP: \$1,499.99* SKU 8700293	3.13GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	500GB; 3GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	ATI Radeon X3850	8 USB 2.0; 2 FireWire; 1 S-Video
 Apple MB325LL/A MSRP: \$1,799* SKU 8844726	2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	320GB; 2GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Mac OS X v10.5 Leopard	ATI Radeon HD 2600 Pro	5 USB 2.0; 2 FireWire
 Sony VAIO VGC-LT25E MSRP: \$1,999.99* SKU 8704672	1.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo T5450	500GB; 3GB	DVD±RW/ CD-RW/ BD-R	Windows Vista Home Premium	Nvidia GeForce 8400M GT	5 USB 2.0; 1 FireWire; 1 S-Video

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Software Listings

Get More Out Of Your PC

Computers can be used to create greeting cards, play games, balance your checkbook, and more. The thing is, most of these functions aren't available straight out of the box. To fully harness your computer's potential, you'll need to buy software. Here are some options.

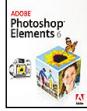
Art/Illustration/ Graphics



**Corel
Paint Shop Pro
Photo X2**
\$99.99*

See p. 59

Whether you're looking for automatic photo fixes or precision editing tools, Paint Shop Pro Photo X2 has what you need.



**Adobe
Adobe Photoshop
Elements 6**
\$99.99*

www.adobe.com

Photoshop Elements 6 makes it easy to fix red-eye, combine photos for the perfect group shot, or tweak the color balance to make your photos look their best.



**Broderbund
The Print Shop 22
Deluxe**
\$49.99*

www.broderbund.com

Create banners, business cards, letterheads, calendars, photo greeting cards, invitations, and more right from your computer.



**Creative Home
Hallmark Card
Studio Deluxe 2008**
\$49.99*

www.hallmarksoftware.com

Use Hallmark Card Studio Deluxe 2008 to design the perfect greeting card for every occasion, complete with Hallmark sentiments.

Audio/Video



**Pinnacle
Studio Ultimate
version 11**
\$129.99*

www.pinnaclesys.com
Use automated and powerful video- and audio-editing tools to create and share your home movies.



**Apple
iLife '08**
\$79*

www.apple.com
Use Apple's popular iPhoto, iWeb, GarageBand, and iDVD on your Mac to organize photos, create a Web site, record music, or edit movies.



**Magix
Movie Edit Pro 14**
\$49.99*

www.magix.com
You can make movies, even if you're thousands of miles away from Hollywood, with this video-editing software.



**Cakewalk
Music Creator 4**
\$39*

www.cakewalk.com
Record, edit, and mix all kinds of instrumental and vocal music with this music composition program.

Business Applications



**Microsoft
Office Standard
2007**
\$399.95*

www.microsoft.com
Use all of today's most popular business office applications, including Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, and Word.



**Adobe
Adobe Acrobat 8
Standard**
\$299*

www.adobe.com
Easily create, combine, and manage various PDF documents for your personal or business needs.



**Intuit
Quicken Home &
Business 2008**
\$99.99*

www.intuit.com
Manage your personal and business finances and easily see where you stand financially with the redesigned Business Center.



**Smith Micro
Software
VMware Fusion**
\$79.99*

www.vmware.com

This program lets you run Windows applications on your Intel-based Mac for greater freedom and productivity.

Games/ Entertainment



**2K Games
Sid Meier's
Civilization IV**
\$29.99

www.2kgames.com

This addictive strategy game has a multiplayer mode for additional ways to compete against your friends.



**Got Game
Entertainment
Arctic Stud Poker
Run**
\$19.99*

www.gotgameentertainment.com

This game combines the strategy of poker, the thrill of racing, and the explosions of combat in Tournament Elimination, single-, or multiplayer modes.



**MumboJumbo
Polar Games**
\$19.99*

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

www.mumbojumbo.com
In this safe-for-the-whole-family game, four players can compete to see who's the best bowler or golfer.



SouthPeak Games
Dream Pinball 3D
\$19.99*

www.southpeakgames.com
Play pinball on your computer with six table themes, several ball options, multiball power-ups, and intense visuals and ball physics.

Home Productivity



Nuance
Dragon
NaturallySpeaking
Preferred 9

\$199.99*

www.nuance.com
Dictate emails, reports, and other documents much faster than you can type using Dragon NaturallySpeaking.



Susteen
DataPilot Universal
Kit w/ Bluetooth
\$69.95*

www.susteen.com
Connect your cell phone to your computer or Bluetooth adapter to back up your phone's address book, synchronize your phone book and

calendar with Outlook, or use your phone as a wireless modem for your laptop.



Microsoft
Streets & Trips
2008
\$39.95*

www.microsoft.com
Plan your next vacation and share your travel plans with friends who will be joining you along the journey.



ValuSoft
MasterCook
Deluxe 9.0

\$19.99*

www.valusoft.com
Broaden your mealtime options with more than 8,000 recipe ideas, many of which can be prepared in less than 20 minutes.

Networking & Communications



McAfee
Internet Security
Suite

\$69.99*

www.mcafee.com
In addition to guarding your computer from malicious attacks, Internet Security Suite can back up and restore your photos, music, and other important files.

See p. 58



Trend Micro
Internet Security
Pro

\$69.95* (one-year subscription)

www.us.trendmicro.com

Whether you're surfing the Internet from home or away, you can rest assured that your sensitive information will be protected.



Check Point
ZoneAlarm
Internet Security
Suite

\$69.95*

www.checkpoint.com

ZoneAlarm Internet Security Suite is your one-stop security shop, with antivirus, antispyware, antispam, antiphishing, identity-theft protection, and more.



PC Tools
Spyware Doctor 5.5
\$29.95*

www.pctools.com

See p. 57

Surf the Internet with confidence knowing Spyware Doctor will prevent known and emerging spyware threats from reaching your PC.

System Utilities



Symantec
Norton Ghost 14.0
\$69.99*

www.symantec.com
Back up your entire computer or select specific files for backup to ensure you're able to recover from any unforeseen events, such as a crash or virus attack.



iolo
System Mechanic
Professional
\$69.95*

www.iolo.com
Find and fix errors and fragmentation on your PC, clean out clutter, and optimize your system for best performance.



GuardID Systems
ID Vault
\$49.99*

www.guardid.com
Although it looks like a USB flash drive, ID Vault safely stores login and password information to keep your information safe from keyloggers and phishing scams.



WhiteCanyon
WipeDrive 5
\$39.95*

www.whitecanyon.com
When it's time to dispose of an old computer, use WipeDrive to ensure all traces of your personal information are completely removed.

Put The Phone Down & Drive

Is It Time For A Hands-Free Cellular?



ny list of the great inventions of our time has to include the cell phone. Unfortunately, two great inventions don't always combine as well as strawberries and cream. Take cell phones and steering wheels: Mobile phones have proven to be enough of a distraction in traffic that states are enacting laws to restrict their use while driving.

Because the federal government defers to state jurisdictions, no single policy applies to all cell phone users. Whether you're affected by bans depends on where you are.

Cell Phone Nation

So far, no state has completely prohibited using a cell phone while driving. However, using a handheld phone while in traffic is now banned in six states: California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Utah, and Washington, as

well as the District of Columbia. (The California and Washington bans just went into effect July 1, 2008.) Many other states are considering similar laws.

Another six states—Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, Ohio, and Pennsylvania—allow local municipalities to set their own restrictions. Conversely, eight states—Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Utah—forbid local jurisdictions from enacting their own cell-phone laws.

Seventeen states, plus D.C., have banned all phone use by teenaged and other novice drivers. However, in most instances where a ban is in effect, the operative word is "handheld." If you're using a hands-free phone, this is no different in the eyes of the law than holding a conversation with a passenger. But even states with the most restrictive laws allow for certain exceptions, such as calls to emergency services.

Further complicating matters, states with phone bans differ on how the police can enforce them. In states where "primary enforcement" applies, an officer can stop drivers if he merely observes them violating the phone law. In states opting for "secondary enforcement," drivers can be cited for a violation only if the officer has stopped them for some other reason.

GPS The One-Way Conversation

It's a comedy staple: a lost driver so engrossed in a map that the next time he looks up, he has a great view of the oncoming trees. But what makes you laugh when it's on-screen isn't one bit funny in real life.

Leave the map to your trip's planning stages. While you're en route, an in-car GPS device can get you where you're going with both hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road. Secure it to your dashboard or upper windshield, input your destination before you leave, and it will verbally guide you through every turn. Because GPS navigators pinpoint your location relative to communications satellites, they're almost always in range of a working signal, whether you're in an unfamiliar part of town or cruising coast-to-coast.

The benefits of an in-car GPS don't end with your destination. If your vehicle is ever stolen, the navigator can help the police track its exact location, although the visible presence of a GPS device may make it less likely to be stolen in the first place. Depending on the unit you select, it may also help you summon aid in case of a breakdown or another emergency; some units have an emergency button, and others can automatically detect a crash and then relay that information to a service center, which pinpoints the car's location and alerts local 911 services.

It may even do all of this for less than the price tag suggests; adding a GPS device could earn you a discount on your auto insurance. ●

Ultimately, the national overview of cell phone laws is a crazy quilt that ranges from firm restrictions in some states to none at all in others. To check the status of your locale, visit the Insurance Institute For Highway Safety (www.iihs.org/laws/cellphonelaws.aspx), which maintains an up-to-date table that lists each state's bans and enforcement level.

Living Within The Law

If you drive someplace where using a cell phone could get you fined, but you can't exist without those in-transit calls, then you better consider going hands-free.

Fortunately, there are enough alternatives that you should be able to find something that suits your lifestyle preferences, starting with a Bluetooth headset that slips onto your ear and goes anywhere you go.

You could also opt for a kit that moves the speakerphone concept from the office to your car. There's a wide selection of options here, from wired phone cradles to wireless systems that let you leave your phone in your pocket or purse. Some units are removable and powered by the car's lighter socket; others require permanent installation in the car's dashboard.

Most units use a built-in microphone, and some let you place calls by voice recognition. Some have their own speakers, and some play the other end of your conversation through the vehicle's speakers, often via an FM frequency on the radio. A few budget options use

wired earphones, although certain states prohibit the use of plugs in both ears.

The most flexible systems, though, are wireless units for Bluetooth-enabled phones. This is the specialty of Parrot, starting with its CK3100 LCD (\$219.99; www.parrot.com/usa), which installs in-dash and features an LCD for quick visual feedback. Parrot's Minikit (\$89.99)

is a portable unit you can shuttle among multiple vehicles or carry from room to room; it's as at home on your desk as it is clipped to your car's sun visor.

Ideally, you'll find something that will keep you in touch while keeping distractions to a minimum. Safe driving! 

BY BRIAN HODGE



Essential Things To Know

Wireless

iPods

Which iPod model will suit my needs?

ANSWER: If you listen to music while working out or when you're on the go, an iPod shuffle or nano will probably be suitable. Music or media lovers should consider the iPod classic or touch.

What accessories are available for iPods?

ANSWER: Armbands, clips, protective cases, headphones, and speaker docks are a handful of iPod accessories. You can also purchase FM tuners, chargers, clock radios, and software.

What will I need to listen to my iPod in my car?

ANSWER: You can enjoy your iPod on the road with an FM transmitter, a cassette or Bluetooth adapter, and direct-connect kits for certain car models.

Which audio formats can I download to my iPod?

ANSWER: You can download and play AAC, Protected AAC, MP3, MP3 VBR, Audible (formats 2, 3, and 4), Apple Lossless, AIFF, and WAV.

Cell Phone Technologies

What is GSM?

ANSWER: GSM (Global System for Mobile Communication) is a cellular phone standard that allows devices to share channels with other devices, with each device having its own time slot. AT&T and T-Mobile use GSM in the United States.

What is CDMA?

ANSWER: CDMA (Code-Division Multiple Access) is a cellular phone standard. Unlike GSM, CDMA does not assign a specific frequency to each user. Sprint and Verizon Wireless use CDMA in the United States.

What is EVDO?

ANSWER: EVDO (Evolution Data Optimized) is a wireless broadband networking service that gives you high-speed Internet access on your cell phone without the need for a wireless access point.

What is HSDPA?

ANSWER: HSDPA (High-Speed Downlink Packet Access) is a GSM mobile telephone protocol that provides high-speed Internet access on your phone. HSDPA is faster than EDGE and supports up to 14.4Mbps in the downlink and 2Mbps in the uplink. AT&T currently offers HSDPA in the United States.

What is EDGE?

ANSWER: EDGE (Enhanced Data for GSM Evolution) is a digital mobile phone technology that provides high-speed Internet access on your cell phone. EDGE can transmit data at rates up to 384Kbps and is therefore slower than HSDPA. AT&T offers EDGE coverage in many places where HSDPA service is not yet available.

Headphones

Are wired headphones better than wireless headphones?

ANSWER: Wired headphones will offer a better connection than wireless headphones because your audio will suffer less signal degradation. Nevertheless, there are wireless headphones that can deliver excellent quality audio.

What is Active Noise Cancelling?

ANSWER: Headphones equipped with noise-cancelling technology detect ambient noise and generate a tone to cancel it out. This creates a clearer sound in your headphones, so you can enjoy your music even in somewhat noisy environments.

What sets Dolby Surround Sound headphones apart from other headphones?

ANSWER: Headphones with Dolby Surround Sound technology let you listen to audio with virtually the same surround-sound effects you'd experience in a 5.1-channel surround-sound home theater.

Can you damage your hearing with headphones?

ANSWER: You can damage your hearing with headphones, but you can take precautions to prevent this from happening. Keep your audio volume at a comfortably low level, and your hearing shouldn't be affected.



Smartphones

Do I have to lock into a service plan to get a smartphone?

ANSWER: The type of plan you get depends on which provider you choose. Some require a contract, typically for one or two years; others don't.

Will any OS work with any kind of smartphone?

ANSWER: Most smartphones use a proprietary OS. Symbian is the most common worldwide but not in the United States, where Windows Mobile, RIM BlackBerry, Linux, iPhone, and Palm are more prevalent.

Will my smartphone work overseas?

ANSWER: That depends on your phone's network: CDMA (Code-Division Multiple Access) networks work in North and South America. GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) networks operate worldwide. Check with your service provider for options and ask if roaming charges apply.

How do I transfer data from a computer to a smartphone and vice versa?

ANSWER: The specific transfer method depends on the phone. Generally, smartphones transfer data via a USB cable, dock, or cradle. Some phones sync information wirelessly via Bluetooth or Wi-Fi technology.

What sets an iPhone apart from other smartphones?

ANSWER: The phone has more than 300 patents and features one of the slimmest form factors on the market. Additionally, you access its menus and control all of its features through the touchscreen.



MP3 Players

5 Must-Have Accessories

Nailing down a list of must-have accessories for an MP3 player is tricky. Just because an iPod dock for the kitchen tops your list, for example, doesn't mean it even cracks an avid jogger's Top 5. Ultimately, though, five general categories stand out, although other notable accessories include extra batteries, cleaning kits, and Bluetooth adapters. **FG**

BY BLAINE FLAMIG

1

Match your earphones to your needs. Sometimes a runner doesn't fare well with earbuds, which fall out due to the constant jostle of running. This is a burden for anyone hoping to get in a good workout. A runner should opt for headphones that are secure, and in this case, an in-the-ear earbud would be the ideal choice. Headphone styles are numerous and include wired/wireless earbuds, which are perfect for people on the go (students, mass-transit users), and earcups, which can satisfy any audiophile's need to hear minute musical details.

2

Portable speakers and docks are perfect for letting the entire group listen to tunes in open areas. Whether you want to listen to Enya as you take shelter from a summer squall or need some musical motivation as you weed, feed, and mow the lawn, there's no limit to where you can listen to your portable player. Don't let the pair of headphones that came with your player constrain you, either. Most speakers have a dock to recharge your player's battery. Check your MP3 player manufacturer's Web site for model numbers of available speakers and docks.

3

Beam the tunes on your portable music player through your car stereo. If you're motoring about in the family van, music players can provide the soundtrack. You'll need an FM transmitter that plays the tunes on your portable music player over your car radio. Connect the transmitter to your player, select a designated frequency on the radio, tune to that same frequency on your transmitter, and listen to music, movies, podcasts, audio-books, etc. Transmitters range from basic to sophisticated models (providing remote controls and visual interfaces), making it easy to find one that suits your needs.



4

Cases can protect your portable music player from scratches, bumps, water, physical drops, and mishaps that can otherwise shorten your player's life. You decided to treat yourself and buy a high-end MP3 player. Because you've already spent so much, it's only right to assume that you have everything you need, right? Not quite. No matter what type of portable music player you own, it's wise to buy a case to protect it in different environments. Cases are relatively inexpensive (around \$20 and up) and can provide a little protection from minor drops or normal wear and tear. Because cases are designed to work with specific players, check the MP3 player manufacturer's Web site for cases that are compatible.

5

Armbands can mean the difference between a workout you're proud of vs. one that is constantly interrupted by accidental drops and tugging, tangled cords. Without a doubt, music is a huge motivator when it comes to exercise. No matter your sport, an armband that fits around your bicep offers stability for your portable music player and comfort for you. And for workouts that don't jostle your player, such as riding an exercise bike, a lanyard provides an inexpensive, effective alternative to an armband.



ARCHOS

Personal Media Player

Entertainment Your Way



Archos - 705 Wi-Fi

MSRP: \$499.99

SKU: 8741203

www.archos.com

Quick Overview

Featuring the highest-quality screen resolution, highest-quality video, touchscreen and Wi-Fi capabilities for streaming content to the device or a TV, the Archos 705 Wi-Fi is the top product in the lineup for flexibility, portability, features and price.

Perfect For

Whether showing a slideshow with music backgrounds of personal pictures to your friends or doing a business presentation, it is perfect for storing and displaying digital images.

Outstanding Benefits

- **Play all your digital entertainment:** movies, TV shows, photos, and music
- **Record** and schedule your favorite TV shows with the TV program guide
- **Download** movies and music directly on your Archos 705 using the Archos Content Portal
- **Surf the Web** and access Web video sites (such as Dailymotion® or YouTube®)
- **View** photos and make slideshows with music and transition effects, for viewing on the personal media player or on TV

Coolest Feature

The high-resolution 7-inch touchscreen (800 x 480).

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse



Wireless Speakers Music Everywhere . . . Without The Wires



Eos Wireless Audio System

MSRPs: Base unit and one speaker \$249.99

Additional speaker \$129.99

SKUs: 8497467 (Base unit and one speaker)
8497478 (Additional speaker)

www.eoswireless.com

Quick Overview

Now, fill your whole home with great-sounding music . . . without the hassle of wires. With Eos Wireless iPod speakers, you can broadcast your music up to 150 feet away, inside or out! Eos is perfect for pool side outdoor BBQs or summer parties. All digital means no static, no interference. Eos is easy, just plug and start playing . . . no complicated connection, no mind-bending set-up.

Perfect For

Those who want to enjoy the experience of true multi-room audio indoors and outdoors, all without the hassle of wires.

Outstanding Benefits

- GigaWave® wireless technology provides interference-free, 150 ft. range
- Supports up to 4 Eos stereo wireless speakers
- Clean, powerful 2.1 stereo surround sound
- SRS WOW!™ sound enhancement technology
- iPod docking base station/transmitter with 2.1 stereo sound
- Removeable integrated power supply
- Auxiliary audio input allows you to broadcast any audio signal
- Rugged enclosure great for indoor or outdoor use
- One-year warranty

Coolest Feature

With a rear mini jack input, you can **broadcast sound from almost any audio source** outside or in the comfort of your home.

Available at www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse

GRACE
DIGITAL AUDIO

WiFi Radio

Listen To Radio Stations From Around The World



Grace Wireless Internet Radio

MSRP: \$199.99

SKU: 8600766

www.gracedigitalaudio.com

Quick Overview

Now you can listen to streaming Internet radio via your wireless network using the Grace Wireless Internet Radio. This radio supports MP3, WMA, and Real Media streaming. The 4-line LCD shows the song and artist. The intuitive and easy-to-use controls let you browse over 11,000 global Internet radio stations with ease. You can even wirelessly stream your music library from your PC.

Perfect For

Those who want an innovative way to listen to the radio, while having a variety of global Internet radio stations to choose from.

Outstanding Benefits

- 3-inch ported speaker delivers rich, full-bodied audio
- Listen to over 11,000 radio stations from around the world
- Select stations by region, country, station, or by over 50 musical genres
- Displays song and artist information
- Works with any 802.11b/g wireless connection
- Standalone radio, no PC required
- Connect to your existing stereo system via audio out (headphone jack) connection
- Clock radio functionality with alarm
- Supports Real Audio, MP3, WMA, AAC, WAV, and AIFF formats

Coolest Feature

You can **wirelessly stream tunes** from your wireless Internet router and the music library from your PC's hard drive.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse®



Bluetooth Headset

Changing The Face Of Bluetooth



BlueAnt Z9 Dual Microphone Headset

MSRP: \$99.99

SKU: 8462362

www.myblueant.com

Quick Overview

The award-winning BlueAnt Z9 Dual Microphone Headset is the latest in Bluetooth headsets, combining cutting-edge technology with stylish design. Incorporating Bluetooth version 2.0 and BlueAnt's revolutionary Noise Cancelling Solution, Voice Isolation Technology, the Z9 cancels out almost all background noise while preserving the clarity of your voice.

Perfect For

The Z9 Dual Microphone Headset is perfect for people on the go who need clarity and simplicity in their Bluetooth headset.

Outstanding Benefits

- Dual microphones for pure speech
- Full-duplex and high-performance speaker
- Automatic connection and reconnection with notification
- Different ringtones for known and unknown contacts
- Stylish, translucent ear hook
- Separates the desired voice signal from background signals, enabling crystal-clear communication in the noisiest of environments
- Incorporates On-the-Fly phone switching between multiple devices (up to three)

Coolest Feature

Revolutionary **Voice Isolation Technology** produces world-class noise suppression and echo cancellation with zero voice distortion.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse

BELKIN®

FM Transmitter

Charge & Listen To Your iPhone Or iPod In The Car



TuneCast® Auto with
ClearScan for iPhone
and iPod

MSRP: \$79.99

SKU: 8732794

www.belkin.com

Quick Overview

Your iPod anywhere. Your playlists everywhere. TuneCast Auto lets you listen to the music from your iPhone or iPod in the car.

Perfect For

The Belkin TuneCast Auto for iPhone and iPod is perfect for listening to your iTunes playlists in the car.

Outstanding Benefits

- ClearScan one-push station locator
- PRO setting optimizes audio and boosts volume
- Two programmable preset buttons
- High-contrast backlit display
- Car charger

Coolest Feature

Cut through the static with **ClearScan**. Avoid the frustration of manually finding a clear FM station. ClearScan technology quickly scans and finds the best FM frequency—all with one push of a button.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse®



Portable iPod Speakers Jam Out In Style



**Sonic Impact
i-P22 Portable
Speakers**

MSRP: \$99.95

SKU: 8703183

www.si5.com

Quick Overview

Crank up your favorite tunes in style with Sonic Impact's i-P22 Portable Speakers. With the Geisha case design from Lucky Brand Jeans, this speaker system not only gives you amazing sound but also looks cool. Plus, it charges your iPod while you listen. The patented Maxxbass booster delivers enhanced bass performance. The case makes it easy to take with you no matter where you go.

Perfect For

Those who are into style and want a system that can move with them.

Outstanding Benefits

- Portable speaker system built into a hard-shell carrying case
- Universal iPod dock will accommodate any future iPod models
- Apple-authorized 30-pin connector for convenient plug and play
- Patented Maxxbass booster for enhanced bass performance
- Charge iPod while playing when the unit is powered by included AC adapter
- 4 AA batteries (not included) provide up to 24 hours of playback
- Stylish Geisha case design by Lucky Brand Jeans

Coolest Feature

The 3.5mm input jack allows you to **connect other audio devices**, such as an MP3 player, nondocking iPod, or CD player.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse

Which MP3 Player Is Best For You?

Pods are cool, sure, but you have other choices when it comes to listening to your tunes. This chart compares the most important—and coolest—features from select MP3 players available at Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com).

	Memory type	Capacities	Songs	Video; FM tuner capabilities	Colors	Battery life
What It Means	Hard drive (moving parts, more capacity) or flash (no moving parts)	How much memory the player has (on models available at Best Buy)	Based on four-minute songs at 128Kbps, the number a player can hold	Some MP3 players can play video or let you listen to radio stations	Several players offer a variety of color choices	How long the battery will last when playing music
 SanDisk Sansa Clip MSRP: \$59.99* SKU 8553825	Flash	2GB	1,000 (WMA)	Only an FM tuner	Black, red, pink, blue	64 hours (WMA)
 SanDisk Sansa Fuze MSRP: \$79.99*; \$99.99*; 129.99* SKU 8753789	Flash	2GB; 4GB; 8GB	500; 1,000; 2,000	Both	Black, red, pink, blue	24 hours
 Apple iPod nano MSRP: \$149*; \$199* SKU 8500847	Flash	4GB; 8GB	1,000; 2,000 (AAC)	Only video	Silver (4GB); Black, silver, red, blue, green	24 hours
 Samsung P2 MSRP: \$199.99*; \$249.99* SKU 8571379	Flash	4GB; 8GB	N/A	Both	Black, burgundy	30 hours
 Apple iPod classic MSRP: \$249*; \$349* SKU 8500035	Hard drive	80GB; 160GB	20,000; 40,000 (AAC)	Only video	Black, silver	30 hours; 40 hours
 Microsoft Zune 80GB MSRP: \$249.99* SKU 8595978	Hard drive	80GB	20,000	Both	Black	30 hours
 Apple iPod touch MSRP: \$299*; \$399*; \$499* SKU 8500419	Flash	8GB; 16GB; 32GB	1,750; 3,500; 7,000 (AAC)	Only video	Black	22 hours
 Archos 705 WiFi MSRP: \$399.99*; \$499.99* SKU 8741267	Hard drive	80GB; 160GB	45,000; 95,000	Only video	Silver	25 hours

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

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Which GPS Device Is Right For You?

One of the hottest CE devices around right now is a GPS device, and what a useful device it is, too. Here, we compare some models available on today's market. All of these units come with maps already loaded, and you can purchase additional maps, as well.

	Screen size; Dimensions	Text-to- speech; Traffic receiver	Preloaded maps	WAAS	Bluetooth; MP3 play- back	Included charging adapters
What It Means	The diagonal measurement of the screen; Height x width x depth	Unit calls out specific street names; Unit receives traffic updates and reroutes accordingly	The regional maps that come included with the GPS unit	A satellite and ground station system that gives exceptional GPS accuracy	Some units communicate wirelessly with other Bluetooth devices or play MP3s	AC adapters plug into the wall; DC adapters plug into your car's cigarette lighter
 Mio DigiWalker C230 MSRP: \$249.95* SKU 8539511	3.5 inches; 3.5x5x0.9 inches	Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico)	Yes	No; No	DC adapter
 TomTom 130-S MSRP: \$249.95* SKU 8774427	3.5 inches; 3x3.6x0.8 inches	Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	No	No; No	DC adapter
 Magellan Maestro 3250 MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 8539548	3.5 inches; 3.2x3.6x0.7 inches	Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	No	Yes; No	DC adapter
 Garmin nüvi 260W MSRP: \$428.56* SKU 8673697	4.3 inches; 4.8x2.9x0.8 inches	Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico)	No	No; No	DC adapter
 TomTom GO 720 MSRP: \$449.95* SKU 8400198	4.3 inches; 3.3x4.6x0.9 inches	Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	No	Yes; Yes	AC adapter, DC adapter
 Harman Kardon GPS-810 MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 8540518	4.3 inches; 2.4x5x0.75 inches	Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	No	Yes; Yes	AC adapter, DC adapter
 Garmin nüvi 760 MSRP: \$642.84* SKU 8539156	4.3 inches; 3x4.8x0.8 inches	Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico)	Yes	Yes; Yes	DC adapter
 Garmin nüvi 780 MSRP: \$749.99* SKU 8674071	3.81 inches; 3x4.8x0.8 inches	Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico)	No	Yes; Yes	DC adapter

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Getting Outdoors

Before the kids head back for another school year and the leaves start to turn color, many of us will try to take advantage of the great outdoors. No matter where your open-air adventures take you, Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com) has plenty of products such as these that can help you maximize and enjoy your fishing, camping, or hiking excursions.



Garmin Fishfinder 400C Dual Frequency

Don't let the
"big one" get away.
\$349.99



Better Energy Systems Solio Classic Solar Charger

An essential campsite accessory.
\$99.99



Insignia Portable MP3 Speaker with Bluetooth Technology

Enjoy your favorite tunes
in the great outdoors.
\$59.99



Olympus Stylus 1030 SW

Snap your own
photographic evidence of Bigfoot.
\$399.99



TriSquare xXRS 900MHz FHSS 2-Way Radios

Keep the lines of communication open.
\$69.99



Gibson Acoustic Guitar

Gather around
the campfire
to sing a song or two.
\$99.99



ProMagix E2055

FASCINATION COMES STANDARD

FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Intel® Core™ 2 Duo desktop processor E8500 with two processing cores, 1,333MHz system bus, 6MB L2 cache, and 3.13GHz processor speed per core
- 500GB Serial ATA hard drive
- 3GB of PC6400 DDR2 memory, expandable to 4GB
- DVD±RW/CD-RW drive with double-layer support and LightScribe
- ATI Radeon X3850 graphics card
- High-definition surround sound with 5.1-channel support
- Two FireWire interfaces and eight USB 2.0 ports with both front and rear access for fast and easy data transfers

PERFECT FOR HIGH-END GAMING, the Velocity Micro ProMagix E2055 Desktop offers a next-generation Intel® Core™ 2 Duo desktop processor E8500, powerful 256MB ATI Radeon X3850 graphics card, and 3GB of RAM to provide blazing speed and immersive graphics. Built with nothing but premium performance components, the stylish, brushed aluminum desktop functions perfectly as a multimedia system. With a 500GB hard drive for all of your storage needs, a built-in digital media reader to easily retrieve your photo and video files, and a double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW drive with LightScribe, this is definitely a take-no-prisoners PC.



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